



# Winning Friends for Christ

## *Tell Me*



### Opening Prayer

### Key Points From First Week - *Plan Ahead*

What command did Jesus give to EACH of us before ascending into heaven?

Matthew 28:19-20 = The Great Commission - *Go and make disciples of all nations*

What is the only way we can successfully go and make disciples of all nations?

Acts 1:8 = Use Spirit's power, Be WITNESSES (tell what we know), Start in Jerusalem

Where is our Jerusalem?

John 1:35-36, 41, 45 = Where we live. People around us - family, friends, coworkers

### Key Points From Second Week - *Prayer Power*

How was Paul able to witness as boldly and effectively as he did?

Ephesians 6:19-20 = Prayed for God's ready help with words, fearlessness & effectiveness

What are some of the specific needs in witnessing where Paul especially needed God's help?

Colossians 4:2-4 = That God will open a door, we walk thru it & effectively tell His Story

What are ways we should be prepared to be effective witnesses when God opens doors?

Colossians 4:5-6 = Watch for open doors, don't ruin an oppty, be prepared to answer

### Key Points from Last Week - *Person to Person*

What must we share with another before we can share our faith and the hope God has given us?

1 Corinthians 13:13 = Love

People don't care what you believe if they don't believe that you care

Corollary: When people believe that you care, they care what you believe

Strengthen your relationship with others so that they know that you care

Allows you, as a true friend, to share the most important aspect of your life - faith in Jesus

Don't try to act like a friend, Be a friend

Why did Paul try to befriend and please people?

1 Corinthians 10:32-33 = For their good - so that they may be saved

Besides being a good listener, how else can we show our love and concern to our friends?

1 John 3:18 = *with actions and in truth* - live out your love

People are especially open to the Gospel message during times of transition

### Be Prepared

What did we say in Week 1 is the reason and purpose of this class?

1 Peter 3:15 = We can be prepared, We must be ready for oppty's, We need help

Are you prepared to answer in 25-50 words if someone asked you now the reason for your faith?

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### How Do You Respond?

As you cultivate friendships (last week), you may get questions like:

*Why do you go to lunch with me when you could be eating with the boss?*

*What happens at that church of yours that makes you go every Sunday?*

*How can you keep from giving up when you know that you are deathly ill?*

*How many times are you going to forgive him?*

*What do you believe about life after death?*

Will you know what to say? Will you even know where to begin?

### Where Do I Begin?

How did Peter respond to the opportunity presented by the confusion at Pentecost?

Acts 2:14-17 = Began with the situation and moved to show Jesus as the Jew's messiah

How did Philip respond to an opportunity to witness to the Ethiopian?

Acts 8:30-31, 35 = Began with the Ethiopian's questions and moved into gospel story

How did Paul respond to the polytheism (many gods) of the Greeks when he was in Athens?

Acts 17:16, 22-23 = Began with their religiosity and moved to introducing them to Jesus

Begin with the topic of the opportunity and use it to move into your witness

### What Do I Say After I Begin?

Is your witness prepared within you to come out naturally in the context of the topic of the opportunity?

You can't spout off the same oration in every situation. You need a mental library.

To prepare for a speech, you'd: = Do research, organize thoughts, write down ideas, practice

To prepare for a piano recital, you'd: = practice until it became second nature

Like snow skiing, witnessing will seem \_\_\_\_\_ until: = awkward, you get used to doing it

Prepare what you want to express. Write down your own story. = Materialize it.

What effect did Paul have on Governor Felix when he told his own story?

Acts 24:24-25 = Felix felt the Spirit working on him

What effect did Paul have on King Agrippa when he told his own story?

Acts 26:28-29 = Agrippa felt the Spirit working on him

### Guidelines for Your Story

1. Keep it \_\_\_\_\_. = *simple* - What do we need to know for salvation. Don't complicate it.
2. Tell \_\_\_\_\_ story. = *your* - What has Christ done for YOU? Why is it important to YOU?
3. Use \_\_\_\_\_ words. = *real* - Don't confuse with "church talk". Good explanations in book.
4. Keep it \_\_\_\_\_. = *short* - Better to leave them with questions than to bore with too much.
5. Invite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. = *questions, discussion* - Don't debate, just tell & answer.
6. Have key Scripture verses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. = *memorized, ready* - It's God's story.
7. Think \_\_\_\_\_. = *Gospel* - Law is needed to show need for Savior, but don't overkill
8. Encourage a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. = *statement of faith*. - Carefully get personal response.

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### Preparing Your Story

Write down answers to questions like these:

*What is one thing you like about Jesus?*

*When did you become a Christian? How?*

*Why do you go to church?*

*How is your life as a Christian different from what it would be if you were not a Christian?*

*What do you believe happens when you die?*

*Why are you a Christian? Why is your faith important to you?*

### Approaches

Familiarize yourself with a lot of approaches. Use discernment on what to use when.

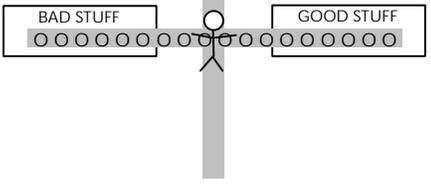
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Three Basics</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People need a Savior. - We all suffer from our sin and need rescue.</li> <li>2. Jesus is our Savior. - His death paid the punishment for our sins and rescued us. We are free.</li> <li>3. We live under His love. - As God's saved people we live under His care and direction. We demonstrate it to others.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">From C. F. W. Walther (First LCMS President)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much I needed Christ.</li> <li>2. How much Christ did for me.</li> <li>3. How I came to faith in Him.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">From a 10-yr old to his friend</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I messed up.</li> <li>2. Jesus forgives me.</li> <li>3. I just want to thank Him.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Roman Road</u></p> <p>Good brief Biblical explanation of the essence of Christianity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Romans 3:23 = All have sinned &amp; fall short of God's glory I'm in that "ALL", are you? = Sure Have you ever done anything wrong? = Sure Can you own up to it? = Sure</li> <li>2. Romans 6:23 = Wages of sin is death, Free gift is etrnal life What are wages? = Rewards/payment for working What are we paid for our sin? = Physical &amp; spiritual death What is a gift? = Something someone gives you Do you have to work for it? = No, it would be wages What free gift does God offer through whom? = EL, Jesus</li> <li>3. Romans 10:13 = Whoever calls on the Lord will be saved Are you included in this "whoever"? = Sure What must you do you be saved? = Call upon the Lord How do you do this? = Prayer, confession Are you ready to call on the Lord now? = Let Spirit push</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Four Spiritual Laws</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God <b>loves</b> you and offers a wonderful <b>plan</b> for your life. John 3:16 = God so loved the world that He gave</li> <li>2. Man is <b>sinful</b> and <b>separated</b> from God. Therefore he cannot know and experience God's love &amp; plan for his life. Romans 3:23 &amp; Romans 6:23 = All sinned, wages death</li> <li>3. Jesus Christ is God's <b>only</b> provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. John 14:6 = I am way, truth, life - Only to Father thru Me Romans 5:8 &amp; 1 Cor. 15:3-6 = Christ died for us, the story</li> <li>4. We must individually <b>receive</b> Jesus Christ through faith as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. Ephesians 2:8-9 = By grace you are saved through faith Mark 16:16 = He who believes &amp; is baptized will be saved</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Bad News - Good News</u></p> <p>Bad News #1 - You are a sinner. Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of God's glory</p> <p>Bad News #2 - The penalty for sin is death. Romans 6:23 = The wages of sin is death.</p> <p>Good News #1 - Christ died for you. Romans 5:8 = While we were sinners, Christ died for us</p> <p>Good News #2 - You can be saved through faith in Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 = By grace you are saved through faith Eternal life is based on fact, not feeling. John 5:24 = He who hears &amp; believes has eternal life.</p> <p>How do you respond? Philippians 4:6-7 = Tell God through prayer 2 Timothy 3:16-17 = Learn more by reading the Bible Hebrews 10:24-25 = Worship with God's people Matthew 4:19 = Tell others about what Jesus has done</p>

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### More Approaches

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kennedy Evangelism Explosion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?</li> <li>If you died tonight and God asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you say?</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">Summary of the Gospel</p> <p>Grace Heaven is a free gift (<i>Romans 6:23</i>) It is not earned or deserved (<i>Romans 11:6</i>)</p> <p>Man Is a sinner (<i>Matthew 5:48, Romans 3:10</i>) Cannot save himself (<i>Romans 3:23</i>)</p> <p>God Is merciful - doesn't want to punish us (<i>Neh. 9:17b, 31</i>) Is just - therefore must punish us (<i>Exodus 20:5</i>)</p> <p>Christ Who He is - the infinite God-man (<i>John 1:1, 14</i>) What He did - He paid for our sins (<i>Isaiah 53:6</i>)</p> <p>Faith What it is <i>not</i> - intellectual assent (<i>Eph 2:8-9, James 2:19</i>) What it <i>is</i> - trust in Jesus alone for salvation (<i>Gal 3:10-14</i>)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Bridge</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Beginning   </li> <li>Sin entered the world   </li> <li>Jesus Christ came and bridged the gap   </li> </ol> <p>Related approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are separated from heaven by canyon formed by sin</li> <li>We try to jump across canyon by good works we do</li> <li>Some can jump further than others, but none can reach</li> <li>No amount of works can get to other side, all fall short</li> <li>Jesus gave us a bridge to simply trust in and walk over</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Religion vs. Christianity</u></p> <p>If you'd ever be interested in knowing the difference between religion and Christianity, I'd be happy to tell you.</p> <p>Religion is spelled D-O      Religion is trying to DO things to win God's approval      ... to earn eternal life ... to make up for past sins      Religion is a dead end road      You don't ever know if you've done enough      Would a loving God play those games with His people?</p> <p>Christianity is spelled D-O-N-E      No one can measure up to God's standard of holiness      No self-effort or sacrifice can merit God's favor or EL      When Jesus died on the cross, He said, "It is finished."      He did for you what you can't do for yourself      He has paid the price for your sins</p> <p>If you accept His gift of forgiveness through faith, you can become a Christian and be certain of where you'll go when you die. If you ever want to talk further, I'm available for you.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Xs and Os</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most people think they can earn eternal life if their Os outnumber or outweigh their Xs   </li> <li>Bible says Os don't offset Xs. Nothing can remove an X.</li> <li>There's only one way to get rid of Xs.          Jesus died on the cross to wipe out your Xs.   </li> <li>You need only trust in what He did for you.</li> </ol>

### Closing Prayer