

Saved to Serve HIM – Part 2

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 401*)

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to everyone that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”
(1Peter 3:15).

What is personal evangelism?

1. Evangelism should be PERSONALITY-ORIENTED.

- Christians are to BE good news before they SHARE the good news.
- When we are “real” people, it puts others at ease and lets them know that our Christianity is real also.

There are many different styles of evangelism:

- **Confrontational Style – Peter in Acts 2**
Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction (2 Timothy 4:2).
- **Intellectual Style – Paul in Acts 17**
We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- **Testimonial Style – Blind Man in John 9**
We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us (1 John 1:3).
- **Interpersonal Style – Matthew in Luke 5**
I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22).
- **Invitational Style – Woman at the Well in John 4**
Then the master told his servant, Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full (Luke 14:23).
- **Serving Style – Dorcas in Acts 9**
In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

2. Evangelism should be PEOPLE-ORIENTED.

- When we show a genuine interest in others, they will eventually want to know WHY!
- An evangelistic “event” tends to rush people, but an evangelistic “process” is patient with people.

3. Evangelism should be TEAM-ORIENTED.

- A person's coming to God is like a chain with many links; we don't have to be every link, just one link.
- We need to intentionally become partners with other Christians, linking our abilities to lead people to God.

4. Evangelism should be ETERNITY-ORIENTED.

- Evangelism is the primary reason that the church is on planet earth – nothing else is as important to God.
- If one soul is worth more than the entire world, then any person we meet is incredibly valuable to God.

Why is one soul so important? Read the book of Acts!

- In Acts 3 it was one lame man at the Temple Gate
- In Acts 8 it was one anonymous Ethiopian Treasurer
- In Acts 9 it was one Pharisee named Saul
- In Acts 9 it was one coat-maker named Dorcas
- In Acts 10 it was one Roman Centurion named Cornelius
- In Acts 14 it was one anonymous crippled man
- In Acts 16 it was one seller of cloth named Lydia
- In Acts 16 it was one anonymous Philippian jailer
- In Acts 18 it was one ruler of the synagogue named Crispus
- In Acts 18 it was one eloquent preacher named Apollos

You never know just who you might be witnessing to.

SPIRITUAL FISHING

"Jesus called out, 'Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men'" (Matthew 4:19, LB).

- Following and fishing go together.
- Leading people to the Lord is like fishing, not hunting.

HUNTING	FISHING
Aggressive	More gentle
Based on confrontation	Based on attraction
Go out there and shoot them	Get them to nibble on the bait
Uses one-size-fits-all bullets	Allows you to try different lures
Take your best shot – it's over	Requires give and take to reel it in
Scares animal away if you miss	You get more than one chance

The animal has no choice	The fish gets a choice
Must be a skilled shot	Anyone can put bait in water

THREE KEYS TO SPIRITUAL FISHING

1. Identify your fishing pond.

"You will be my witnesses – in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world" (Acts 1:8, NIV).

MY FISHING POND		
ACTS 1:8	MY CHURCH	MYSELF
Jerusalem	My home town	Family
Judea	My region/state	Relatives
Samaria	My country	Friends
The World	Every Country	Acquaintances

God holds me most responsible for the people that I already have relationships with. The place to start witnessing is with those closest to me.

"Go home to your family and friends. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you" (Mark 5:19).

2. Learn about the kind of fish in your pond.

"To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews...to those who are without the law I became like a person who is without the law... to those who are weak I became weak so I could win the weak. I have become all things to all people so I could save some of them in any way possible. I do all this because of the Good News and so I can share in its blessings" (1 Corinthians 9:20-23, NCV).



The more you know about a person, the easier it is to reach them with the Gospel.

"With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity" (Mark 4:33, TM).

"Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ" (1 Corinthians 9:22-23, LB).

Before you can REACH a person, you must be able to RELATE to them.

3. Remember fish get hungry at different times.



"Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers" (Colossians 4:5, GN).

"Realizing this man's understanding, Jesus said to him, 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God'" (Mark 12:34, LB).

Most people go through a process in receiving salvation; effective evangelism assesses where they are now and helps them take the next step.

The Parable of the Soils	Four Levels of Receptivity
Hard Soil	Defensive Heart
Shallow Soil	Impulsive Heart
Weedy Soil	Distracted Heart
Good Soil	Receptive Heart

"My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos' work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts" (1 Corinthians 3:6, LB).

HOW PEOPLE FIND SALVATION

- 6	Self-satisfied, skeptical, resistant, or spiritually apathetic	Resistant stage
- 5	Becomes aware of an unmet need or spiritual void in their life	Receptive stage
- 4	Begins looking for answers to questions or solutions to problems	Seeker stage
- 3	Considers the differences between themselves and believers	Consideration stage
- 2	Learns why and how to become a Christian	Understanding stage
- 1	Ready to believe and receive salvation	Ready stage
0	GROUND ZERO	NEW LIFE!
+ 1	Learning about their new birth and their church family	
+ 2	Learning about the habits necessary for spiritual growth	
+ 3	Learning how to use their God-given talents to serve others	
+ 4	Learning how to share the gospel with other people	

Important Points to Remember:

- People move through these stages at different speeds.
- When someone gets “stuck” it is usually due to FEAR.
- Each stage requires a different response from me.

WHAT TO DO WITH PEOPLE AT EACH STAGE:**- 6. At the RESISTANT stage ...**

- Build a relationship with them
- Invite them to a fun or casual church outing
- Don't argue with them.



Some people we think are RESISTANT are just UNAWARE of the gospel, or they have just never heard it in terms they can understand.

- 5. At the RECEPTIVE stage ...

- Tell them that you are praying for them
- Ask open-ended questions to get them thinking
- Share a testimony of how God has helped you

LIFE EVENT	STRESS / RECEPTIVITY LEVEL
Death of a spouse	100
Divorce	73
Marriage separation	65
Jail term	63
Death of a close family member	63
Personal injury or major illness	53
Getting married	50
Fired from work	47
Marriage reconciliation	45
Retirement	45
Major change in health of family member	44
Pregnancy	40
Sex difficulties	39
Gaining a new family member	39
Major change at work	39
Major change in financial status	38
Death of a close friend	37
Son or daughter leaving home	29
Trouble with in-laws	29
Spouse begins or stops work	26
Trouble with boss	23
Change in residence	20

- 4. At the SEEKER stage ...

- Invite them to one of our weekend services
- Give them reading materials or start a Bible Study
- Talk with them about their specific spiritual concerns

80% of people who experience salvation say it started with a friend inviting them to church.

- 3. At the CONSIDERATION stage ...

- Introduce them to other Christians
- Discuss the ways that Christians respond to life
- Invite them to join you for times of fellowship

- 2. At the UNDERSTANDING stage ...

- Explain the plan of salvation to them
- Share your testimony of conversion
- Help them see the implications of their decision

- 1. At the READY stage ...

- Pray a prayer of repentance with them
- Take them to talk to the pastor about water baptism
- Pray with them at the altar to receive the Holy Ghost

0. GROUND ZERO ...

- Celebrate their spiritual birthday with them
- Make yourself available to encourage them
- Get them started in some basic classes (go with them if possible)

Study Questions

1. List at least six (6) different styles of evangelism, with a Bible example of each. Support each style with a Scripture reference that encourages us to be this type of evangelist.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

2. Given the following statements to describe evangelism, give two points to explain each.

Evangelism should be PERSONALITY-ORIENTED.

1) _____

2) _____

Evangelism should be PEOPLE-ORIENTED.

1) _____

2) _____

Evangelism should be TEAM-ORIENTED.

1) _____

2) _____

Evangelism should be ETERNITY-ORIENTED.

1) _____

2) _____

3. List one soul from seven (7) different chapters in the book of Acts (do not use the same chapter twice) who were important enough to send someone to share the gospel.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

4. Explain why leading people to the Lord is like fishing, not hunting. _____

5. List and briefly explain the three (3) keys to spiritual fishing. Support each answer with Scripture reference.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

6. Match the four (4) types of soil in the Parable of the Soil with the different levels of receptivity in the heart of a person seeking salvation.

1) _____	1) _____
2) _____	2) _____
3) _____	3) _____
4) _____	4) _____

7. List three (3) important points to remember about the stages people go through while finding salvation.

1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

8. Given the following things to do with people who are seeking salvation, identify at which stage of receptivity this action should be taken.

- 1) Build a relationship and do no argue with them. _____

- 2) Explain the plan of salvation and share the story of your conversion. _____

- 3) Introduce them to other Christians, and invite them to join you for times of fellowship. _____
- 4) Tell them you are praying for them, and ask open-ended questions to get them thinking. _____
- 5) Celebrate their spiritual birthday with them, and make yourself available to encourage them whenever possible. _____

- 6) Give them reading materials or start a Bible study, and talk with them about their spiritual concerns. _____
- 7) Pray a prayer of repentance with them, and take them to the pastor to talk about water baptism. _____
- 8) Pray with them at the altar to receive the Holy Ghost. _____

9. List the two (2) most stressful life events that cause a person's receptivity level to the gospel to rise. _____
