



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK
PRESENTS

Going Public with Your Faith Part 3

Featuring

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Talking about Jesus

<p><i>But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,</i> —1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)</p>	<p><i>If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath.</i> —1 Peter 3:13-16 (The Message)</p>
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I. Examining the intellectual barrier

Definition: A predisposition to disregard or reject Christianity based on bad information or misconceptions

A reaction to _____

Our response

Biblical truth graciously presented challenges the mind to _____

Once a person trusts you, they must move to _____

The goal is understanding, not to win an _____

II. Responding to open doors

Definition: An opportunity to talk further about what it means to be a follower of Christ

Respond to an open door

Ask questions like those in the Topical Bible Study, page 4

Listen for expressions of interest or felt need

Listen for spiritual background and experiences

Be sensitive to your listener

Ask permission to speak further

Proceed slowly and check regularly to see if they are still with you

Regulate the dosage

Don't react negatively to objections

Process Workshop

See if you can identify the stage in their spiritual journey of the following individuals. Then determine what you would say next.

Comment	Stage	Your response
1. A new customer complains about being offended about a competitor's Christian faith		
2. A gospel tract falls out of your purse or briefcase and your new boss picks it up.		
3. A colleague comments that all born-again Christians are hypocrites after an evangelical leader's confession of sexual sin.		
4. A golf buddy says, "I'll never do business with a Christian again."		

IV. Using Scripture in sowing

Topical Bible study (see next page)

Book Bible study (*Your Home a Lighthouse* study)

Using tracts

The Gospel in one verse

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Romans 6:23

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Response

Where have you experienced “open doors” in the lives of pre-Christian friends and colleagues?

Are you ready to enter that open door?

Break—15 minutes

Topical Bible study	
<p>Success What do you think it means to be successful? Do you feel like a success? What would it take to feel successful? How important do you think success is to you? How have you responded to failure?</p>	<p>Matthew 5:1-12; 25:14-30; 28:16-20; Luke 6:20-26; 9:22-26; 12:16-21; 18:18-30; John 15:12-17; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26; 5:10-6:12; 12:13-14</p>
<p>Work and Leisure Do you enjoy your work? How fulfilling is it? If you could change anything about your job, what would it be? If money were no object and you could spend your time doing anything, what would you do? What is the main reason you work? How important to you is leisure time? Do you get enough? What do you like to do when you're not working? Why?</p>	<p>Genesis 1:26-30; 2:4-24; 3:17-19; Exodus 18:13-26; 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Proverbs 6:6-11; 22:9; Ecclesiastes 2:17-26; 5:18-20; Matthew 11:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15</p>
<p>Children What is the best part about having kids? the hardest part? What do you like best about your own kids? If you had an expert on call, what questions would you ask? If you could offer a new parent some good advice, what would it be? If you could change anything about raising your children, what would it be?</p>	<p>Genesis 1:28; Exodus 20:5-6; Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:6; 29:15; Matthew 7:9; 10:37; 18:1-6; 2 Corinthians 12:14; Ephesians 6:1-4</p>
<p>Relationships with the Opposite Sex What is the best part about being married? the hardest part? What do you think are the key ingredients of a satisfying relationship? How did your parents' relationship influence your view of marriage? If you could change anything about your relationship, what would it be?</p>	<p>Genesis 1:26-27; 2:4-3:24; Proverbs 5:15-20; 20:6; 31:10-31; 1 Corinthians 7:1-40; Ephesians 5:21-33; Hebrews 13:4. Song of Songs</p>
<p>Money and Self-Identity Why do you think people work so hard to get rich? How does your financial situation affect how you feel about yourself? Of all your possessions, what would be the hardest to lose? Why? Have you ever been in financial trouble? How did it affect you? If you could change anything about your life-style, what would it be?</p>	<p>Psalm 50:10-12; Haggai 2:8; Matthew 6:19-34; Luke 6:20-26; 12:13-34; 16:1-15; 18:18-30; 2 Corinthians 4:18; 8:1-9:15; 1 Timothy 6:17-19</p>
<p>Absolutes, Right and Wrong How do you make decisions on what is right and wrong? Do you have a standard that helps you define right and wrong? When you have a tough choice, what do you consider? Do you believe some things are always right and wrong? How important are other people's opinions when you're deciding whether or not to do something? How strong is your conscience? What happens when you go against it? Do you ever feel guilty? Why? If you could change something about your life, what would it be?</p>	<p>Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19:7-14; Matthew 4:4; 23:34-40; John 15:9-17; Romans 13:8-10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:5-8</p>

Following the Spirit's Lead

V. Examining the volitional barrier

Definition: A predisposition to resist examining spiritual issues or to reject Christ outright

Characterized by social pressure, personal issues, an unwillingness to change

A response of _____

Just how bad is it?

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

—Ephesians 2:1-3.

“Caution: God at Work”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

—John 3:16

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

—John 4:23

When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...

—John 16:8.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

—2 Corinthians 4:7

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

—Ephesians 4:11-16:

Remember

- Evangelism is a _____

- Their eternal destiny is in _____

- We can introduce a person to Christ, but we can't compel them _____

VI. Talking to Jesus about people

Pray the Scripture for ourselves

1. That we would do excellent work (Proverbs 22:29) that would bring glory to God (Matthew 5:16)
2. We would treat people fairly (Colossians 4:1)
3. We would have a good reputation with unbelievers (1 Thessalonians 4:12)
4. Others would see Jesus in us (Philippians 2:12-16)
5. Our lives would make our faith attractive (Titus 2:10)
6. Our conversations would be wise, sensitive, grace-filled, and enticing (Colossians 4:5-6)
7. We would be bold and fearless (Ephesians 6:19)
8. We would be alert to open doors (Colossians 4:3)
9. We would be able to clearly explain the gospel (Colossians 4:4)
10. God would expand our influence (1 Chronicles 4:10)

Pray the Scripture for others

1. The Father would draw them to himself (John 6:44)
2. They would seek to know God (Deuteronomy 4:29; Acts 17:27) and would believe the Bible (Romans 10:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13)
3. Satan would be restrained from blinding them to the truth (Matthew 13:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4)
4. The Holy Spirit would convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-13)
5. God would send other Christians into their lives to influence them toward Jesus (Matthew 9:37-38)
6. They would believe in Jesus as their Savior (John 1:12; 5:24)
7. They would turn from sin (Acts 3:19; 17:30-31) would confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10)
8. They would yield their lives to follow Jesus (Mark 8:34-37; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Philippians 3:7-8)
9. They would take root and grow in Jesus (Colossians 2:6-7)
10. They would become a positive influence for Jesus in their realm (2 Timothy 2:2).

VII. Final thoughts

Penetrating the darkness takes _____, it takes _____, and it takes _____

Who would you love to see come to Christ?

Laws of Spiritual Economics

Is the problem that there's not enough grace from God to go around?

Is the problem that there's not a demand for God's grace in people's lives?

The problem is distribution: God has chosen to use *us*

Resources

***Going Public with Your Faith:
Becoming a Spiritual Influence at
Work***

by William Carr Peel and Walt
Larimore, M.D.
www.24sevenfaith.com

***Going Public with Your Faith Video
Curriculum***

www.24sevenfaith.com

***The Saline Solution: Sharing Christ in
a Busy Practice***

Christian Medical and Dental
Associations
www.cmdahome.org

24Seven Project

www.24sevenfaith.com

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www.drwalt.com

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Organic Evangelism

	MICRO-DECISIONS					
				DISCIPLE	BELIEVER	SEEKER
	+5	Chooses to live by faith	MULTIPLYING	<p style="text-align: center;">Speaks to the Whole Person Focus: Practicality Obstacle: Social barriers (isolation, independence & ignorance) Goal: Grow & reproduce Key activity: Integration</p>		
	+4	Makes Christ-like choices				
	+3	Chooses to share his/her faith				
	+2	Joins in community life				
	+1	Assimilates God's Word				
	0	Trusts in Christ	HARVESTING	<p style="text-align: center;">Speaks to the Will Focus: Reliability Obstacle: Volitional barriers (cultural pressure, indecision, rejection & spiritual deadness) Goal: Trust Jesus Key activities: encouragement, persuasion & prayer</p>		
	-1	Turns from self-trust				
	-2	Sees Jesus as the answer				
	-3	Recognizes his/her need	SOWING	<p style="text-align: center;">Speaks to the Mind Focus: Intelligibility & plausibility Obstacle: Intellectual barriers (ignorance, misinformation, cultural assumptions & error) Goal: Understand the message Key activities: Storytelling, explanation, & clarification</p>		
	-4	Considers the truth of the gospel				
	-5	Understands the implications				
	-6	Aware of the gospel				
	-7	Recognizes relevance of the Bible				
	-8	Looks positively at the Bible	CULTIVATING	<p style="text-align: center;">Speaks to the Heart Focus: Credibility Obstacle: Emotional barriers (denial, indifference, fear, mistrust & antagonism) Goal: Personal trust Key activities: Connection & attraction</p>		
	-9	Recognizes difference in the messenger				
	-10	Aware of the messenger				
	-11	Avoids the truth				
	-12	Hostile to the truth				

Adapted from *Going Public with Your Faith*, © 2003, and *The Saline Solution* © 1995, William Carr Peel and Walt Larimore, *Living Proof: A Small Group Video Series Discussion Guide* and *What's Gone Wrong with the Harvest*, James F. Engle and Wilbert Norton.