

Introduction to Evangelism MS508 (Fall 2010)

I. Purpose

This course is designed to give you an introductory overview of the ministry of evangelism. The emphasis will be on helping you develop a more biblical and theological understanding of evangelism and equipping you to be more effective in your personal evangelism and in your ministry leadership roles as an equipper and facilitator of evangelistic ministries.

II. Objectives:

A Mind for Truth: Transforming Your Understanding

- To understand and articulate a biblical theology of evangelism.
- To understand the role of the church in evangelism, especially as it relates to church planting, growth, and multiplication.
- To understand the cultural barriers to the gospel in a secular society.
- To understand the role of discipleship, spiritual multiplication, and transferability in evangelism.
- To understand the nature of the gospel and the essential elements of an evangelistic presentation.
- To be acquainted with the literature, programs, and resources presently available for equipping Christians to be more effective in evangelism.

A Heart for God: Transforming Your Affection

- To have a deep, personal conviction concerning the biblical priority of evangelism in Christian ministry.
- To have a broken heart for the lost, especially for those who are presently in your network of relationships.
- To have a personal commitment to pray for evangelistic ministries and for the lost, especially for those who are presently in your network of relationships.

A Life for Ministry: Transforming Your Behavior

- To learn how to present the gospel effectively to individuals, groups, and large gatherings.
- To learn how to start and lead an evangelistic program in the ministry of a local church.
- To be a personal soul winner, “doing the work of an evangelist” (2 Tim. 4:5) as a way of life.
- To be involved in a ministry of spiritual multiplication that is “winning, building, and sending” those who will “win, build, and send” others.

III. Format

This course consists of 14 two-hour classroom sessions beginning Wednesday, August 25, 2010, and ending Wednesday, December 01, 2010. Classroom sessions may include: lecture (including guest lecturers), class interaction, student reports and presentations, video presentations, self-study exercises, motivation activities, and small group sharing. Occasionally, individual and small group work sessions will be conducted during the class time. Group study outside of class is strongly encouraged.

Office Hours: You can schedule an appointment with Dr. Childers through his administrative assistant, Joyce Sisler, at 407-366-9493 x219 or jsisler@rts.edu. Appointments are normally scheduled on Wednesday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. p.m. Additional times may be arranged by contacting Joyce. Your teaching assistant is Daniel Moch (djmoch@gmail.com). Please contact Daniel first for all issues regarding the course. He will refer you to Dr. Childers if appropriate.

IV. Texts

Required:

- Metzger, Will, *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 3rd Edition, 2002. (ISBN: 9780830823222)
- Miller, C. John (Jack), *A Faith Worth Sharing*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1999. (ISBN: 9780875523910)
- Packer, J.I., *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001. (ISBN: 9780830834129)
- Wolters, Albert, *Creation Regained (Second Edition): Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing InterVarsity Press, 2005. (ISBN: 9780802829696)

Recommended:

The following books contain material (see Section VII footnotes) that is not required reading but will help deepen your understanding of the gospel and evangelism.

- Barrs, Jerram, *The Heart of Evangelism*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2001. (ISBN: 9781581347159)
- Hybels, Bill and Mittelberg, Mark, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1996. (ISBN: 9780310210085)
- Keller, Timothy, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*, Penguin Group, 2009. (ISBN: 9780525950493)
- Kennedy, D. J., *Evangelism Explosion* (4th Edition), Tyndale House, 1996. (ISBN: 9780842307642)
- Kuiper, R.B., *God-Centered Evangelism*, Banner of Truth, 1978. (ISBN: 9780851511108)
- Stott, John R. W., *Basic Christianity* (2nd Edition), IVP, 1971. (ISBN: 9780877846901)

V. Requirements

A. Attendance and Class Participation

This course requires attendance and participation at all class sessions. Class lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed all of the assigned readings by the required dates. Class will begin promptly at 1:00 PM. Tardiness, unexcused absence and lack of class participation will impact your final grade. You are required to read thoughtfully the assigned readings which are detailed at the end of this syllabus in the section titled, *Course Schedule and Assignment Due Dates*.

NOTE: Your personal class notes must be dated and typed for every class session you attend. These notes will be included as a significant part of your *evangelism portfolio* (20% of your course grade) which will be turned in at the end of the semester. Designate the weekly class sessions you attend as such:

August 25—Class One (Sessions 1-2)

Your Notes...

September 1—Class Two (Sessions 1)*

Your Notes...

**If you miss one of the sessions (i.e. session 2), indicate which sessions you attended.*

B. Evangelism Reading & Reports (25%)

You are required to read thoughtfully (not simply skim) the following books and articles in their entirety, and complete a report by the date indicated:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| (1) <i>Creation Regained</i> by Albert Wolters | September 29, 2010 |
| (2) <i>Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel</i> (selections) by Will Metzger | October 6, 2010 |
| (3) <i>Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God</i> by J.I. Packer | November 3, 2010 |
| (4) <i>A Faith Worth Sharing</i> by Jack Miller | November 24, 2010 |
| (5) <i>Evangelism Reader Articles: Miscellaneous Articles</i> | Final Exam Question |

For the Wolters, Metzger, and Packer books (1, 2 and 3 above), you are required to write a one-page reading report in the style and format of the *Reading Report Form* in this syllabus (5% each). Please notice the Miller book has a different format (see below).

Only selected readings will be assigned from Metzger's book. It will not be read in its entirety.

For the Miller book (4 above), you are required to express at least one life application principle related to evangelism (one paragraph minimum) from each of the ten chapters in the book. This assignment must not exceed five typed pages, double-spaced. (10%)

Even though the Miller reading assignments are not listed until weeks 11-13, you are strongly encouraged to read this book (a very easy and enjoyable read!) more slowly and thoughtfully throughout the entire semester. Many students who have taken this course report on the significant impact this book had on their views of evangelism.

For the *Evangelism Reader Articles* (5 above), there will be a question on the Final Exam regarding these readings. These articles will be posted on Selfservice on or before the first day of class and will be marked as required reading. They will be referenced throughout the lectures and are important for a complete understanding of the course content. It is strongly recommended that the student read these articles weekly so as not to get behind in the assigned course reading.

The reading reports above will not be turned in during class on the due dates but must be dated on or before the due date and included in (turned into) the student's portfolio notebook (due on the last day of finals week) in order to receive full credit.

NOTE: Dr. Childers may periodically assign additional or substitute articles during the semester in response to issues raised in class or new, relevant journal or book publications. These articles will be posted on Selfservice. There will not be a question on the Final Exam regarding these new articles.

C. Personal Outreach Assignment and Report (25%)

1. Personal Outreach Assignment

- **Identify** a minimum of at least two non-Christians in your present network of relationships. These people must be geographically near (such that you can meet with them face-to-face). If you would also like to identify someone that is not geographically near, you may do so, but this person would be a third person. Students may choose to develop these relationships individually or in teams of two. **Determine the names of these people by September 1, 2010 and place their names in your portfolio with the date of the entry.**

Note: Please do not ask for modification of this assignment. This is difficult for many of you who have not had the opportunity yet to develop relationships with non-Christians. For help, refer to Chapter 8 ("Close Proximity") in Bill Hybels' book, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*.

- **Pray** for those people on your list weekly during this period. Students are strongly encouraged to fulfill their weekly prayer commitment during the semester by recruiting someone to pray with and for them at a regular time each week.
- **Show** them Christ's love. Initiate a friendship. Find out their needs. Establish a common ground. Listen, care, and build a relationship—try not to see such people as merely a class project.
- **Invite** a non-Christian on your list to join you for some activity such as a meal, a movie, a concert, a sports event, exercising together, an outreach event, a worship service, etc.
- **Share** your personal story (testimony) and/or the gospel as God gives you the opportunity. Help them take their next steps toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Be accountable and share your experiences** (whether positive or negative) in the class sessions. NOTE: You should be prepared for the professor to call on you to share your outreach experiences (negative or positive) in every class session.

2. Personal Outreach Assignment Report

The student will receive credit for completing this *Outreach Assignment* by completing a written report (three to five single-spaced pages added to your portfolio) that must be dated by 11:00 a.m. on December 1, 2010 including:

- A. The names and descriptions of each person.
- B. A description of the relationship developed with each person, including a description of the invitations issued to each person, focusing on the goals in (1) above. The desire is for you to have a meaningful experience with a non-Christian during the semester. If after three *sincere* invitations (not “professions of faith”) to some event, meal, etc., have been made (even if there has been no positive response) this requirement is fulfilled.
- C. The results/lessons learned from these outreach experiences. (Sections B and C should be the bulk of your paper.)
- D. A specific description of your faithfulness in weekly prayer – by accessing God’s throne of grace on behalf of these people.

Helpful Suggestion:

- **Consider interviewing a non-Christian.** Explain to an unchurched friend, neighbor or stranger that this is simply a ten-minute interview and is part of one of your seminary (or graduate school) classes. All answers are voluntary and confidential, although you are required to write a brief paper reporting some of the answers given in the interview. See the *Spirituality Questionnaire* in the Gospel Communication Resources Packet (in the course notebook). This has proven to be a helpful “bridge builder” for many students.

D. Gospel Presentation Assignments (30%)

The goal of the *Gospel Presentation* assignments is to help you develop a transferable gospel presentation you can use for personal evangelism and for training others in evangelism.

1. Gospel Presentation Paper (due Week 8, October 20, 2010) (20%)

During weeks 2-6 of the semester the student will be given five *Gospel Presentation* assignments to help you develop a written gospel presentation from the guidelines and resources provided in this course. Each section will be presented and discussed in class.

Note: Although you will NOT turn in written work on this assignment each week, you are expected to complete each assignment according to the schedule and, therefore, be prepared to answer questions in class from the professor regarding your weekly assignment.

The *Gospel Presentation Paper* includes the five *Gospel Communication* assignments. Your completed written *Gospel Presentation Paper* is due on October 20, 2010. You will need this completed paper to complete your *Gospel Presentation Exercises* during the rest of the semester.

Note: Students are expected to “improve” and “revise” their gospel presentation papers after the October 20, 2010 submission of the paper. But subsequent revisions (after the October 20 due date) must be noted and dated (version 2.0, etc.).

There is no page limit on the *Gospel Presentation Paper*, but it must include:

- a. One aspect of your personal story (testimony) (3 minutes maximum when spoken). Guidelines for your testimony (as well as other sections of the Gospel Presentation) can be found in the Gospel Communication Resource packet as well as in the class lecture.
- b. A presentation of the gospel in prose (as you would present it verbally, not in mere outline form) that includes:
 - The 4 major biblical concepts:
 - God (Creation)
 - Man (Fall)
 - Christ (Redemption & Consummation)
 - Repentance and Faith (Conversion)
 - At least one Scripture verse to support each major point within each of the 4 concepts.
 - At least one illustration to support each major point within each of the 4 concepts. (Follow the *Five Key Dynamics* outline in your course notes to help determine where Scripture verses and illustrations are necessary.)
- c. A model prayer of repentance and faith in Christ. (See model in *Five Key Dynamics*)
- d. A suggested follow-up/discipleship plan for a new Christian. (Browse the RTS bookstore.)
- e. The name of a gospel booklet (tract) or book the student approves as a useful tool for witnessing and/or equipping others to witness.

Things to consider: On one level, think of this assignment as an opportunity to develop a transferable evangelism presentation that you can use in a church training program. On another level, think of this assignment as a personal letter to a non-Christian family member or friend (you may even want to send your assignment to someone or write it with someone in mind). However, do not overly modify your presentation as to make it ineffective for broader future use.

2. Gospel Presentation Exercises with a Student (Weeks 8-13) (10%)

During the second half of the semester, you will participate in six *Gospel Presentation Exercises* designed to increase your confidence in personal evangelism by sharpening your verbal gospel presentation. Each week, during weeks 8 to 13, you will be required to share the assigned portion (from memory!) of your *Gospel Presentation Paper* with another present RTS Evangelism Course student outside of class time.

This presentation is cumulative: For the first week, students will share the first section from your *Gospel Presentation Paper*; in the second week you will share the first and second sections; and so on. You will be required to complete a *Gospel Presentation Exercise Sheet* (six sheets are provided with your notes) before class begins, giving written evidence of completing the previous week's assigned Gospel Presentation Exercise. The student hearing the presentation must give a written evaluation, sign and date the sheet for credit to be given. These are due in order of weeks 8 to 13 (See Section VII for specific due dates).

NOTE: These Gospel Presentation Exercises above will not be turned in on the due dates but must be dated on or before the due date (and included in the student's portfolio notebook due on the last day of finals week) in order to receive full credit.

E. Evangelism Portfolio and Take Home Final Examination (20%)

You are required to assemble all your course work into one organized, single notebook for grading purposes and so that you will have a personal evangelism resource to draw from in the future. Your portfolio must be organized into the categories outlined below and include properly dated assignments (on or before the due date) in order to get full credit. These portfolios must be turned in to RTS (Joyce Sisler will have a box near her desk) by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, December 14 (the last day of finals). These portfolios will be returned to you.

I. Evangelism Course Notes

- A. Course Syllabus (Not turned in for grading but included in final portfolio for personal use)
- B. Course Lecture Notes (Not turned in for grading unless including handwritten notes)
- C. Personal Class Notes (Dated)
 - must be dated and typed (or legibly hand-written) for every class period attended
 - designate class periods as *August 25—Class One, September 8—Class Three*, etc.

II. Evangelism Reading Reports

- A. *Creation Regained* by Albert Wolters (Dated)
- B. *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel* (Excerpts) by Will Metzger (Dated)
- C. *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God* by J.I. Packer (Dated)
- D. *Faith Worth Sharing* by Jack Miller: 3-5 Page Report (Dated)

III. Outreach Assignment

- A. Names of your individuals (Dated)
- B. Personal Outreach Assignment Report (Dated)

IV. Gospel Presentations

- A. Gospel Presentation Paper (Date: Original submission & subsequent revisions)
- B. Gospel Presentation Exercises (6 total) (Dated)

V. Final Examination

The Final Examination will be comprehensive and essay in format, including all class reading assignments, lectures (including visiting lecturers), and videos. The final examination questions will be made available during the last class of the semester. The examination will be open book, open notes and open bible with a three (3) hour time limit (honor system). There is no minimum or maximum length for answers. The answers to the final exam questions must be typed, dated and included in your portfolio.

NOTE:

- Students are required to prepare for the Final Examination independently. Therefore all exam review questions must be answered solely by the student. Preparing for the final exam by reading answers written by others to review questions is considered cheating.
- You will be asked on the Final Examination to indicate in writing the percentage of the assigned *Evangelism Articles* you have read thoughtfully (not merely skimmed).

VI. Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system: 100-97=A, 96-94=A-, 93-91=B+, 90-88=B, 87-86=B-, 85-83=C+, 82-80=C, 79-78=C-, 77-75=D+, 74-72=D, 71-70=D-, below 70=F.

Late Assignments Policy

Please do not ask the teaching assistant or the professor for permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized a certain percentage according to the number of days the paper is late. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family), include a separate written request (1 page max) with the completed assignment (in your portfolio) explaining your situation asking for a waiver of the late penalty. No assignments will be received after December 14.

Grading Percentages:

- Evangelism Reading & Reports (25%)
- Personal Outreach Project & Report (25%)
- Gospel Presentation (30%)
 - Gospel Presentation Paper (20%)
 - Gospel Presentation Exercises (10%)
- Portfolio & Final Examination (20%)

VII. Schedule and Assignment Due Dates

Date	Books	Articles	Gospel Communication / Presentation	Other
August 25 Introduction to Evangelism Course (Week 1)	None	None	None	Personal Student Information (Page 11 of this Syllabus)
September 1 (Week 2)	Metzger: 196-197, 212-215 Wolters: 1-12 (Worldview)	TBD	Communication 1: Transition Q's ¹ Personal Story ²	Personal Outreach Assignment Names Due
September 8 (Week 3)	Wolters: 13-52 (Creation) Metzger: 53-58	TBD	Communication 2: "God" Section ³	None
September 15 (Week 4)	Wolters: 53-68 (Fall) Metzger: 58-67	TBD	Communication 3: "Man" Section ⁴	None
September 22 (Week 5)	Wolters: 69-85 (Redemption) Metzger: 67-75 (Christ), 15-52 (Whole Gospel)	TBD	Communication 4: "Christ" Section ⁵	None
September 29 (Week 6)	Wolters: 119-143 (Worldview Btwn Story & Mission) Metzger: 87-111 (Whole Person)	TBD	Communication 5: "Repentance & Faith" Section ⁶	Wolters Reading Report Due (5%)
October 6 (Week 7)	Metzger: 112-158 (Wholly By Grace)	TBD	Communication 6: Commitment & Follow Up Sections (& Booklet Recommendation) ⁷	Metzger Reading Report Due (5%)
October 13	Fall Break (Reading Week)			

¹ Refer to *Transition Questions*..., this week's Metzger reading, Barrs: 163-177, Keller: 115-123, Hybels: 53-65, 95-117

² Refer to *Testimony Guidelines & Worksheet*, Barrs: 117-125, Kennedy: 31-41, 65-85, Chap 5 & 6, www.storyspot.com

³ Refer to Packer: 58-59; Keller: 127-158, Stott: 7-19, Kennedy: 41-42, 87-89, Kuiper: 152-173

⁴ Refer to Packer: 59-63; Keller: 159-185, Stott: 61-80, Kennedy: 42-43, 89-90,

⁵ Refer to Packer: 63-69; Keller: 186-212, Kennedy: 44-46, 92-93, Stott: 21-60, 81-96

⁶ Refer to Packer: 70-73; Keller: 213-240, Metzger 75-78; Barrs 267-275, Kennedy: 46-51, 93-101, Stott: 107-129,

⁷ Refer to Metzger: 78-82; Kennedy: 51-54, Chap 9 & 10, Stott: 98-105, 130-142, Keller: 3-114

October 20 (Week 8)	Packer: 1-46	TBD	Presentation 1: "Personal Testimony" from memory	Gospel Presentation Paper Due (20%)
October 27 (Week 9)	Packer: 46-91	TBD	Presentation 2: "God" section (and all previous) from memory	None
November 3 (Week 10)	Packer: 92-126	TBD	Presentation 3: "Man" section (and all previous) from memory	Packer Reading Report Due (5%)
November 10 (Week 11)	Miller: 11-58	TBD	Presentation 4: "Christ" section (and all previous) from memory	None
November 17 (Week 12)	Miller: 59-116	TBD	Presentation 5: "Repentance & Faith" and "Commitment" (and all previous) from memory	None
November 24 (Week 13)	Miller: 117-152	TBD	Presentation 6: "Gospel Summary" (and all previous) from memory	Miller: Application Paper (3-5 pp) Due (10%) Gospel Presentation Reports (6) Due (10%)
December 1 (Week 14)	Personal Outreach Reports Final Examination Preparation			Personal Outreach Report Due (25%)
December 14 (Tue.) (Last day of finals)	Evangelism Articles Accountability Question (on Final Exam)			Portfolio and Final Exam Due (20%)

READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor
Date

Please limit your report to one typed, single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic (*Overview, Critique, Application*).

Title of Book
Complete Bibliographic Reference

Overview—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application—Offer some specific application to your own ministry— demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Did you read the entire book thoughtfully (not merely skimmed)? Yes ___ No ___ % Read (0-100) ____

Personal Student Information
Please fill out and turn in at the first class.

Name:

Spouse name:

Children, name(s) and age(s):

RTS degree program/emphasis:

Years at RTS-Orlando:

Church presently attending:

Denomination background (Southern Baptist, PCA, etc.):

Desired future ministry role (pastor, church planter, missionary, counselor, etc.):

What are your expectations of the course? What would you like to learn?

What is a specific, personal prayer request you would like the professor to be remembering in prayer for you this semester?

REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Introduction to Evangelism, 2MS508

Professor: Dr. Steven L. Childers

Campus: Orlando

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u> > Strong > Moderate > Minimal > N/A	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	1. Student partners with a classmate in order to present and execute their Gospel presentation exercises. The student will turn in a term paper with a summary of the exercises in 'testimony' form. 2. Student submits an entire portfolio, from which they can teach in the future.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Minimal	1. Student does not engage with Scripture in the original languages. 2. Student must demonstrate that their understanding of Evangelism is grounded in Scripture and therefore Biblical.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	1. Student reads various articles by Reformed authors
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	1. Student participates in daily prayer for the 2 individuals they are asked to engage with the Gospel.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	1. Student gains an understanding of and ability to articulate the Biblical theology of Evangelism; the role of the local church in Evangelistic ministry is also explored.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	1. Student reads articles and books by authors that are not Reformed, and is shown the value of ecumenicalism.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	N/A	

Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	N/A	
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Minimal	1. Student prayerfully chooses 2 individuals in their lives with whom they will intentionally deepen their relationship with in order to create the opportunity for sharing the Gospel and leading them to Christ. (recommitment to Christ also a possibility). A term paper is then turned in with a summary of God's work in both relationships and the direction the relationships took over the course of the semester.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	1. Student learns and/or reads about various traditional ecumenical, as well as current, approaches in regards to Evangelism.

GOSPEL COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

- 1 Five Key Dynamics in Personal Evangelism**
- 2 Transition Questions Toward the Gospel**
- 3 Guidelines for Writing Your Testimony**
- 4 Personal Testimony Worksheet**
- 5 Spirituality Questionnaire**
- 6 Evangelistic Pamphlets List**

Five Key Dynamics in Personal Evangelism **Abbreviated Outline**

I. BUILDING A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP.

- A. Identify** people in your network.
- B. Pray** for them regularly.
- C. Demonstrate** Christ's love to them.
- D. Initiate the relationship** through invitations.
- E. Find common ground** (Shared interests, etc.)
- F. Diagnose their unique need for the gospel** (find a "Common Wound", etc.)

II. OPENING DOORS FOR THE GOSPEL.

___ **A. Personal Testimony** (In light of their need—i.e. *how Christ has/is saving you!*)

___ **B. Transition Questions.**

See "Transition Questions" handout for examples of transition and diagnostic questions that would be appropriate in different cultural contexts (modern, postmodern, etc.). Select the kind of transition questions that will best fit your cultural context.

III. SHARING THE GOSPEL

___ **Transition:**

A. God: Creator/Creation—*The Questions of Origin, Meaning and Morality*

___ **1. Is a Gracious Father—who loves to show mercy.**

___ Gen 1:28, 2:15, Exodus 34:6b, Ezek. 33:11

___ Explanation: There is an infinite, personal God who exists. He is the creator/ruler of all things. In love He created us in His image with great dignity to know Him, honor Him and find our ultimate purpose and satisfaction in Him above everything else.

___ Illustration: God's love, God's mercy (your choice)

___ **2. Is a Just Judge—who must punish sin.**

___ Exodus 34:7b, (Ezek. 18:4)

___ Explanation: Although God is loving and merciful and does not want to punish us, He is also perfectly righteous and just and must punish sin.

___ Illustration: The Bank Robber (EE p.44)

___ **Transition:** This can be seen more clearly when we understand what the Bible says about...

B. Man: The Fall—The Problem of Evil, Suffering and Death**1. Is a sinner**

___ Rom 3:23, Rom 5:12

___ Explanation: What is sin?

a) Guilty Status: Sin is breaking God's Law in thought, word and/or deed—it is a legal problem. God's justice requires Him to demand perfect obedience to His Law. (1 Pet. 1:16, Mt. 5:21–28, James 2:10.)

b) Corrupt Heart: Sin is also a heart problem--trying to find ultimate happiness in life apart from God and His purposes (Jer. 2:13, 17:9, Mk. 7:21–23).

c) Corrupt World: Sin is the reason things are not the way they're supposed to be in the world, i.e., evil and suffering (personal & creation) Romans 8:19-23

___ Illustration: Three sins a day (EE p. 42)

___ Illustration:

Because man is a sinner he...

2. Cannot save himself

___ Rom 3:20, (Gal. 2:16b)

___ Explanation:

• Man cannot save himself from sin's penalty (the problem of guilt) (Rom. 6:23, Heb. 9:27)

• Man cannot save himself from sin's power (the problem of a corrupt heart & a corrupt world) (Rom. 7:24, Eph. 2:1–3))

___ Illustration: Omelet (EE p. 43)

___ Illustration:

___ **Transition:** But the Good News is that what people could never have done for themselves, God has done for them in the person of Jesus...

C. Christ: Redemption— The Hope of Forgiveness, Freedom, & Eternal Life**1. What He did (Gospel Events)**

In Jesus Christ, God...

___ • took on humanity (John 1:1,14)

___ • lived the life we should have lived (Rom. 5:19, Heb. 4:15)

He lived a sinless life for us, resisting every temptation man has faced (the world, the flesh and the devil).

___ • died the death we deserve to die (Is. 53:4–6, Rom. 3:25)

In His death He experienced more than mere physical suffering and pain. He also experienced the full punishment of God that was due sinful man. He offered to God His perfect life record in man's place, paying the full penalty for man's sin. (Mark 10:45, 1 Peter 3:18, Gal. 3:13, 1 Jn 2:2)

___ • was raised from the dead (I Cor. 15:3-6)
 God raised Jesus from the dead as evidence that Jesus' sacrifice for sinful man was an acceptable payment for the penalty man deserved to pay for sin, fully satisfying God's justice (Romans 1:4, Acts 13:34-39, Rom 3:25,26) and as a demonstration of Jesus' victory over all man's enemies, including death and the power of sin (1 Cor 15:56.57, Rom 6:5-7).

___ • was exalted to heaven (Acts 5:31, Heb 2:8)
 Soon after the resurrection, God exalted Jesus Christ to His throne in heaven and thereby declared Him to be the Lord and Savior of the world.

___ **Transition:** But the Good News is not merely what Jesus has done but whom God now says Jesus is because of what He has done.

___ 2 Who He Is--Because of What He did (Gospel Affirmations)

___ • He is Savior: One who now has the ability to give salvation
 ___ Scripture:

___ • He is Lord: One who now has the authority to demand submission
 ___ Scripture:

___ **Transition:** The Good News is not merely who Jesus is but what He now promises (because of who He is) to all those who will acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord.

___ 3. What He Promises (Gospel Promises)

___ • A New Status (A New Record)

___ 2 Cor. 5:21, (Gal. 2:16, Col. 1:22, Jn. 1:12, 1 Jn. 3:1)

___ Explanation: God promises to save from sin's *penalty* those who believe in Christ (justification) and consider them as His children forever (adoption). As Judge, God promises to accept the sacrificial work of Christ as satisfying (propitiating) his just wrath against man and consider man's sin imputed to Christ and Christ's perfect righteousness imputed to man. As Father, God promises to accept and love those who believe in Christ just as He accepts and loves His one and only Son.

___ Illustration: The Great Exchange (record books, forgiveness, adoption), Forgiveness, Acceptance, etc.

___ **Transition:** But Jesus promises those who believe in Him even more than a new standing before God. He also promises...

___ • **A New Nature (A New Heart)**

___ Acts 2:38,39, (Ezek. 36:26, John 3:1-16, 16:5-15, Rom. 6:6,7, 2
Cor. 3:18b)

___ Explanation: God also promises to save those who believe in Christ from sin's crippling, domineering *power* (redemption) over their lives by freely giving them a new heart (desires) and a new Spirit (regeneration) to empower them to know God, honor Him and enjoy Him forever (sanctification). Although you can never be free from sin's ongoing influence until heaven, God promises through Christ to deliver you from sin's domineering power today.

___ Illustration: Freedom, Adoption, Power (Choose one)

___ **Transition:** But Jesus promises those who believe in Him even more than a new status (record) and a new nature (heart) from God. He also promises...

___ • **A New Inheritance (A New Hope)**

___ Eph. 1:13,14 (Rom 8:30, Titus 1:20, 1Cor 15:20-57, Col 1:20, Rev 21:1-4)

___ Explanation: God also promises that one day all of your struggles will be over and he will bring you to your eternal home--a place where he will wipe away every tear from your eyes and make all things new. You will be made new in both soul and body and delivered not only from sin's power but even its presence. God promises that all creation will be made new and that in the new heavens and earth there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order will pass away. Paradise will be restored (glorification).

___ Illustration: Purpose, Freedom, Satisfaction (Choose one)

___ **Transition:** So how can these Gospel promises be fulfilled in a person's life? Jesus taught that they come through...

D. Repentance & Faith: The Way of Reconciliation, Liberty and Satisfaction

___ **1. What is repentance?**

___ Mark 1:15

___ Explanation: Turning away from sin (worshiping heart idols) and self-trust to Christ

___ Illustration:

___ **2. What is faith?**

___ Faith is **not**: mere intellectual assent or temporal faith

___ James 2:19

___ Explanation:

___ Illustration:

___ Faith **is**: turning from sin and self-trust (repentance) and trusting (believing in, worshiping) Jesus Christ and His promises.

___ Acts 16:31, (Rom. 3:22a, Rom. 4:5)

___ Explanation:

___ Illustration:

IV. CALLING FOR A COMMITMENT (CHALLENGING THE WILL)

___ **A. The Qualifying Question:** (Example: “Does this make sense to you?”)

___ **B. The Commitment Question:** (Example: “Would you like to receive Christ?”)

___ **C. The Clarification of Commitment**

___ 1. Repent–turn from sin and self trust

___ 2. Believe–trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

___ John 1:12

___ **D. The Prayer of Commitment**

Pray for...

___ 1. Understanding

___ 2. Repentance

___ 3. Faith

___ Example of a Prayer of Repentance and Faith:

“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I need your forgiveness. Thank you for living a sinless life and dying a sinner’s death on the cross for my sins. I now turn from my sinfulness and self-trust, and I place my trust in You alone for the forgiveness of my sins and the free gift of eternal life. I now receive you as my Risen Lord and Savior. Thank you for taking my sins upon yourself and giving me the gift of your righteousness through faith. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person you want me to be.”

V. PROVIDING BASIC FOLLOW UP

___ **Transition:** If you have sincerely trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have just made the most important decision of your life. Your relationship with God, which was previously broken because of sin, has now been restored. You have been freely given forgiveness of sin and a new life with God that will last for all eternity.

___ A. The Role of Feelings and Faith.

___ John 3:16

___ Explanation: God's trustworthy promise to give forgiveness and new life to all who truly believe in His Son is one of the ways that believers can know they have forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. Emotional feelings are not necessary in order to know that you have entered into new life with God. The promise of God's Word (the Bible) is our authority, not our feelings.

___ B. The Call to Spiritual Growth.

___ Explanation: You are now able to begin experiencing the very purpose for which you were created - that is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever! God wants you to enjoy a meaningful relationship with Him both now and for all eternity. Therefore, God has provided certain ways for you to grow in your relationship with Him.

___ A Solemn Warning: The person who has truly trusted Christ will show the genuineness of his decision by his desire to grow spiritually. Anyone who does not demonstrate the desire to grow in his spiritual life by using the means that God has provided should not deceive himself by thinking he has forgiveness of sin and eternal life with God. (James 2:14,17, I John 1:6, 2:4, 3:14)

___ C. The Gospel and Spiritual Growth.

___ Col. 2:6

___ The goal of the Gospel is not just our regeneration but also our transformation into the image of Christ. Its purpose is not merely to forgive us, but to change us into true worshippers of God and authentic lovers of people. The Gospel is not just "God's plan of salvation" for lost people to be saved from sin's penalty. It is also "God's plan of salvation" for Christians to be saved from sin's power. The same Gospel message that saves sinners also sanctifies the saints.

How, then, does the Gospel transform our idolatrous hearts? Through repentance and faith. Jesus' message was simple but life-changing, "Repent and believe the good news!" (Mk. 1:15). The Apostle Paul made clear that repentance and faith were meant to be ongoing in the life of the believer when he wrote, "...just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in Him."(Col. 2:6)

Coming to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith is meant by God to be more than a mere one time event by which we are saved from sin's penalty. Repentance and faith in Christ is also the God-ordained process by which we are to be continually coming back to Jesus Christ daily, moment by moment, to be saved from sin's power and have our hearts transformed.

___ D. The Means of Spiritual Growth (Follow Up Plan).

(This section does not have to be memorized word for word. Following this model, you do need to know all five means of spiritual growth and have an explanation for each.)

___ Explanation: God has given us certain means of spiritual growth by which we are to grow in our relationship with Him. The means God has provided include:

___ The Bible: God's Way of Communicating With You

___ Explanation: When you read the Bible, God communicates with you. This is why a regular time of prayerfully reading God's Word and applying it to your life is an essential part of a growing relationship with God. Jesus said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) A good place to begin is the reading of at least one chapter of the Gospel of John daily.

___ Prayer: Your Way of Communicating With God

___ Explanation: Prayer is the way you communicate with God. Anyone who has a personal relationship with someone else needs to spend regular time not only listening to that person but also talking to that person. It is the same way in your relationship with God. You need to spend time daily not only listening to Him (through the Bible) but also talking to Him through prayer. "... Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests ..."(Ephesians 6:18)

___ Worship: Joyfully Glorifying God

___ Explanation: Worship is the activity of a believer in which he seeks to give God the glory and honor which belong to Him alone. Although the whole life of the sincere believer may be seen as a type of worship, God calls His people to come together for a special time of group worship every Lord's Day (Sunday). During this time, a congregation of true believers give to God the praise, confession, thanksgiving, prayers and obedience that are due Him.

This is the time when the **Lord's Supper** is regularly observed in remembrance of Christ's death and in obedience to His command. (1 Cor. 11:23-26) This is also the time when **Baptism** is administered in obedience to Christ's command (Matthew 28:19). Water baptism has no saving value in itself, but it is an outward sign of the inward, spiritual reality of God's saving work. Baptism also symbolizes that the person being baptized is a vital member of God's family - the church.

The worship service is also to be a time when the Bible is taught to believers **(Preaching of the Word)** in a way that will help them grow in their personal relationship with God. This is why you need to belong to a church where Christ is honored and His Word is faithfully and accurately taught. If you are not in such a church now, then take the initiative, start this week, and make plans to find such a church and begin worshipping there regularly.

___ Fellowship: Experiencing Authentic Relationships in Community

___ Explanation: It has been said that several logs burn brightly together; but put one aside on the cold hearth, and the fire goes out. In order for believers in Jesus Christ to maintain a meaningful relationship with God, they need the acceptance, encouragement, and love of other true believers who sincerely care about them.

One way God has chosen to show His unconditional love toward believers is through the lives of the other believers. This is why regularly meeting with a group of other Christians for mutual spiritual encouragement is so important. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ..." (Hebrews 10:25)

— **Service & Outreach: Using Your God-Given Abilities to Serve Others**

— Explanation: One of the main reasons that a person is not immediately taken to heaven when he comes to faith in Christ is because God has a special plan for the rest of his life.

Although forgiveness of sin and eternal life with God is received by faith alone and cannot be earned by our good works, this does not mean that good works are unimportant. In fact, from God's perspective, one of the reasons believers have been brought to Christ is so that they can perform good works in Christ's name during the rest of their lives. The Bible says "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

God has uniquely gifted you and has a special plan for your life. (1 Peter 4:10) This plan includes reaching out to others in Christ's name in both word and deed, especially those who do not yet have a personal relationship with God.

Transition Questions Toward the Gospel

Eight Guiding Principles

Ref: *Tell The Truth*, Will Metzger, p. 163

1. Take every possible chance to ask a searching question, then keep quiet. (When we're talking, we're not learning anything.)
2. One thoughtful question is worth a dozen inquisitive ones. The prod-and-pry approach makes people clam up.
3. Questions that come close to the other person's true interest get the best answers, provided we are interested.
4. Be prepared to wait. Sometimes a long silence can be more rewarding than another question.
5. In every case, the quality of an answer depends on the quality of attention given by the questioner.
6. Questions must spring from honest inquiry, not from attempts at flattery or efforts to manipulate the other person's thinking.
7. Questions that deal with a person's feelings are more provocative than those that deal with facts. Listen for and encourage all expressions of feeling.
8. What is our motive in asking questions? Are we just leading someone on in order to argue or to trap him or her, or do we really care for the person? Only a listening, loving heart can remove the mask we all wear.

Sample Transition Questions (*Modernity VS Post-Modernity*)

Modernity Transition Questions:

1. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know that if you were to die today you would go to heaven, or is that something you would say you're working on? (Evangelism Explosion Diagnostic Question #1)
2. Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say you, 'Why should I let you into heaven?' What would you say? (Evangelism Explosion Diagnostic Question #2)
3. May I share with you how I came to know that I have eternal life (alternative: to have a personal relationship with God) and how you can know it too? (EE Question #3)
4. For years, like many people, I didn't know what the Bible teaches about how we can know for sure;
that God forgives us...
that we are going to heaven when we die...
that we are right with God...
...until someone shared that with me. Has anyone ever shared that with you?

Post-Modernity Transition Questions*:

1. Do you think (or read) much about spiritual things?
2. Has this (event, experience, book, etc.) affected the way you understand God?
3. Where would you say you are in your spiritual pilgrimage/journey?
4. What is your concept of God? Do you view God positively or negatively?
5. Do you have a religious/spiritual background?
6. Do you/ have you attend(ed) religious worship services? Why or why not?
7. What do you believe about the origin of life? Evolution? Creation?
8. Do you think that our lives are meant to have a unique purpose?
9. Do you believe in absolutes? Are there real rights and wrongs? If so, how do we know?
10. Why do you think there is so much evil and suffering in the world?

*See *Spirituality Questionnaire* below

Guidelines for Writing Your Testimony

Points to Remember When Preparing Your Personal Testimony

A. What is a Personal Testimony?

A personal testimony is a brief account of one part of your spiritual journey/story that helps people understand why and how you are a follower of Christ, and displays the significant impact your relationship with God has on your life now.

B. What To Do.

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write.
2. Prepare your testimony so it can communicate with groups as well as with individuals.
3. Keep within your time limit (3 minutes maximum).
4. Be realistic. Do not imply that Christ removes all of life's problems.
5. Consider your audience. Write and speak to communicate with the particular group or individual you are addressing.
6. Speak boldly and make Christ the main focus.
7. Consider choosing a theme for your testimony to make it interesting.
8. Memorize and practice it until it sounds natural.

C. What Not to Do.

1. Do not make statements that reflect negatively on churches, organizations, or people.
2. Avoid mentioning denominations or churches by name.
3. Avoid speaking in a condescending manner. Make your delivery in a normal conversational tone.
4. Do not use vague terms such as "joyful", "peaceful", "happy", or "changed" without explaining them.
5. Be sure to clarify or avoid certain words that are not a normal part of a non-Christians' vocabulary such as "I invite Christ into my heart", "I was lost", "I got saved", "I got born again", "I repented", "I got justified", "God's atonement", "the blood of the lamb" "Christ's propitiation", "holy", "sin", "salvation", "saving faith", "redemption", "believe", "God", "I believed in the gospel", "I trusted in the finished work of Christ on the cross", "I was converted", or "convicted".

D. Writing Style.

Write as though you were speaking to a friend rather than giving a formal speech.

1. Be specific. Give enough details to arouse interest.
2. Be accurate, honest and transparent.
3. Include interesting, thought-provoking experiences.
4. You may use one or at the most two Bible verses, but only where they relate directly to your experience. Explain the references if your audience is not familiar with the Bible. (Example: "One of Jesus' disciples said..." rather than "1 John 5:11-13 says...")
5. Write a closing that provides a finished and logical conclusion.
6. Edit and rewrite before memorizing.

Personal Testimony Worksheet

(Ref: Will Metzger's *Tell the Truth* p. 160)

This is your spiritual autobiography. Many Christians are unable to point to a crisis conversion experience. Many Christians do not know the date when God brought them into His kingdom (perhaps he did so when they were young). This does not mean you do not have a meaningful testimony. Be winsome, honest and wholesome. Never go into detail about sins. After a person has heard your story they should know some basic truths about the Gospel and know you better. Use some of the phrases under each heading to help focus on important things.

1 What I Was Like:

My family, friends, interest were.... My security (most important value) was... My religious background and attitude toward God was....

2 What God Used to Begin to Open My Eyes:

I was awakened to my need by (people, books, meeting, circumstances)....What I thought and/or noticed (about myself, God others) at this point was...

3 What It Was I Saw/Understood:

Those aspects of the gospel that touched me were....I came to understand that Christ.... I saw my need was....

4 How Christ Has/Is Affecting My Life:

My relationships with.... My attitude toward.... My desires now are.... I'm now doing.... A difficult area still is....

SPIRITUALITY QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please answer the questions to the best of your ability)

- 1) How would you define God?
- 2) Can a person know God? (How?)
- 3) Who was/is Jesus Christ?
- 4) What is the biggest problem, in your opinion, facing humankind today?
- 5) What is (how do you define) “sin”?
- 6) How do you feel about the “church” (and/or Christianity) and why do you feel this way?
- 7) How would you define the concept of “salvation”?
- 8) Do you think that there is only one way to reach God? (Elaborate)
- 9) What happens after we die?
- 10) How does a person get to heaven?
- 11) What is your philosophy of life?
- 12) What do you think is common to world religions? How do they differ?

Evangelistic Pamphlets

Disclaimer: The evangelistic pamphlets listed below reflect various theological views commonly held by evangelicals today and are recommended for the student's critical analysis and use. These pamphlets do not necessarily represent the theological beliefs of the professor or of Reformed Theological Seminary.

Bridge to Life. NavPress/The Navigators, PO Box 35001, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.

Coming to Faith in Christ (1977). John Benton, The Banner of Truth Trust, PO Box 621. Carlisle, PA 17013.

Evangelism Explosion (??) (1989). Evangelism Explosion International, PO Box 23820, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307.

Have You Discovered the Steps...? (1983). Perimeter (PCA) Church, 9500 Medlock Bridge, Duluth, GA 30155.

Have You Ever Wanted a New Life? C. John Miller, Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship, 4211 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, GA 30034-4203.

Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws? Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ, New Life Publications, PO Box 593684, Orlando, FL 32859.

Life. What's life all about? (1976) David Nicholas, PO Box 812161, Boca Raton, FL 33481.

Quest for Joy, Six Biblical Truths. John Piper, Desiring God Ministries, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 720 13th Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55415-1793.

Steps to Peace With God. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. PO Box 779, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

STOP Who Do You Think I Am? The Master's Fellowship (John MacArthur), PO Box 920, Santa Clarita, CA 91380.

Ultimate Questions (1987). John Blanchard, Evangelical Press, 12 Wooler Street, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL1 1rQ, England.

What is a Real Christian? (1985). Luis Palau, Multnomah Press, Portland, OR.