

Participant's Guide

Becoming a

Contagious Christian

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SESSION 2

BEING YOURSELF – AND IMPACTING OTHERS



Individual Activity: *Styles Questionnaire*

Directions

1. Read each of the 36 statements on pages 20–23 and record a number by each that reflects the degree to which you think that statement fits you. Your choices are from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest match to who you are, and 5 the highest. Here's a description of what each number means:

5 That's totally me
4 Pretty much like me
3 Somewhat like me
2 A little like me
1 That's not me at all

2. Transfer those numbers to the grid at the bottom of page 23 and total each column.

- ___ 1. In conversations, I like to approach topics directly, without much small talk or “beating around the bush.”
- ___ 2. I have a hard time getting out of a bookstore without buying a bunch of new books that will help me understand what people are thinking.
- ___ 3. I often speak out of my personal background or experience in order to illustrate a point I am trying to make.
- ___ 4. I am a “people-person” who places a high value on friendship.
- ___ 5. I enjoy adding or including new people in activities I’m involved in.
- ___ 6. I see needs in people’s lives that others often overlook.
- ___ 7. I don’t shy away from challenging someone when it seems necessary.
- ___ 8. I tend to be analytical and logical.
- ___ 9. I often identify with others by using phrases like, “I used to think that, too,” or “I once felt the way you do.”
- ___ 10. People have commented about my ability for developing deep friendships.
- ___ 11. To be honest, I often watch for situations in which someone “better qualified” can explain concepts to my friends.

- ___ 12. I find fulfillment in helping others, often in behind-the-scenes ways.
- ___ 13. I do not have a problem confronting my friends with the truth even if it strains the relationship.
- ___ 14. In conversations, I naturally key in on questions that are holding up a person’s understanding or progress.
- ___ 15. When I talk around the locker room or the drinking fountain, people really listen.
- ___ 16. I would rather delve into personal life issues than abstract theoretical ideas.
- ___ 17. It is not unusual for me to attend special events or concerts and bring along a carful of friends.
- ___ 18. I would rather show love through actions than through words.
- ___ 19. I think the world would be a lot better place if people would stop being so sensitive about everything and just speak the truth!
- ___ 20. I enjoy discussions and debates on difficult questions.
- ___ 21. I intentionally share my mistakes and struggles with others when it will help them consider solutions that could help them.
- ___ 22. I prefer discussing a person’s life before getting into the details of their beliefs and opinions.

- ___ 23. I tend to watch for worthwhile events to bring people to (such as enriching seminars, retreats, classes, or church services).
- ___ 24. I have found that my quiet demonstrations of love and care sometimes help people open up and become more receptive to what I think.
- ___ 25. A motto that would fit me is: "Make a difference or a mess, but *do* something."
- ___ 26. Often when listening to teachers or TV commentators, I mentally (or even verbally) argue with their positions and logic.
- ___ 27. People seem interested in hearing stories about things that have happened in my life.
- ___ 28. I enjoy long talks with friends, and it doesn't matter much where we are or where we're going.
- ___ 29. I am always looking for a match between the needs and interests of my friends and various books, classes, and programs that they would enjoy or benefit from.
- ___ 30. I think the world would be a better place if people would talk less and take more action on behalf of their friends and neighbors.
- ___ 31. I sometimes get in trouble for lacking gentleness and sensitivity in the way I interact with others.
- ___ 32. I like to get at the deeper reasons for opinions that people hold.

- ___ 33. I am still amazed at how God has worked in my life and I would like others to know about it.
- ___ 34. People generally consider me to be an interactive, sensitive, and caring kind of person.
- ___ 35. A highlight of my week is when I can take a guest with me to a helpful learning event, including church.
- ___ 36. I tend to be more practical and action-oriented than philosophical and idea-oriented.

	Direct	Intellectual	Testimonial	Interpersonal	Invitational	Serving
	#1 ___	#2 ___	#3 ___	#4 ___	#5 ___	#6 ___
	#7 ___	#8 ___	#9 ___	#10 ___	#11 ___	#12 ___
	#13 ___	#14 ___	#15 ___	#16 ___	#17 ___	#18 ___
	#19 ___	#20 ___	#21 ___	#22 ___	#23 ___	#24 ___
	#25 ___	#26 ___	#27 ___	#28 ___	#29 ___	#30 ___
	#31 ___	#32 ___	#33 ___	#34 ___	#35 ___	#36 ___
TOTALS						

Six Styles of Evangelism

1. The Direct Style

Biblical example: Peter in Acts 2

Characteristics:

■ Confident

■ Assertive

■ to-the-point

People who probably have this style:

Billy Graham

Luis Palau

2. The Intellectual Style

Biblical example: Paul in Acts 17

Characteristics:

■ Inquisitive

■ Analytical

■ Logical

People who probably have this style:

Lee Strobel

Josh McDowell

Ravi Zacharias

3. The Testimonial Style

Biblical example: The Blind man in John 9

Characteristics:

■ Clear communicators

■ Compelling storytellers

■ Good listeners

People who probably have this style:

Joni Erickson Tada

Lee Strobel (combination of styles)

4. The Interpersonal Style

Biblical example: Matthew in Luke 5:29

Characteristics:

■ Relational warmth

■ Conversational

■ Friendship-oriented

People who probably have this style:

5. The Invitational Style

Biblical example: The Samaritan woman in John 4

Characteristics:

■ Hospitable

■ Relational

■ Persuasive

People who probably have this style:

6. The Serving Style

Biblical example: Tabitha in Acts 9

Characteristics:

■ Others-centered

■ Work behind the scenes

■ Patient

People who probably have this style:

Direct Style

Biblical Example: Peter in Acts 2

Theme Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Traits

- Confident
- Bold
- Assertive
- Skips small talk, gets right to the point
- Has strong opinions and convictions

Cautions

- Be sure to seek God's wisdom so you will be appropriately sensitive and tactful.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to restrain your desire to come on strong.
- Avoid judging or laying guilt trips on others who approach evangelism with a different style.

Suggestions for Using and Developing This Style

- Ask friends for feedback on whether or not you have the right balance of boldness and gentleness. Keep in mind Paul's phrase in Ephesians 4, "speaking the truth in love." Both truth and love are essential.
- Prepare yourself for situations where you will stand alone (read about Peter in Acts 2 and other Scripture). The nonbeliever you confront with the truth will sometimes feel uncomfortable. Even nonconfrontational Christians who are with you will sometimes feel that discomfort. That's okay. Under God's guidance, challenge people to trust and follow Christ, and he will use it.
- It is critical that you listen and value what others say before telling them what you think they need to hear.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.
- Other: _____

Intellectual Style

Biblical Example: Paul in Acts 17

Theme Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5

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.

Traits

- Analytical
- Logical
- Inquisitive
- Likes to debate
- More concerned with what people think than how they feel

Cautions

- Avoid getting stuck on academic points, arguments, and hair-splitting points of evidence. These are mainly to clear the path back to the central gospel message.
- Remember that attitude is as important as information. First Peter 3:15 says to have “gentleness and respect.”
- Avoid becoming argumentative.

Suggestions for Using and Developing This Style

- Set time aside to study. This style, more than the others, relies on preparation. Take serious action on what it says. 1 Peter 3:15:

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.

- Avoid doing all your preparation in an academic vacuum. Get out and talk to others. Try out your arguments and answers on real people, and make refinements as needed.
- Develop your relational side. Talk to people about everyday events, and what is happening in their life and yours.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope reach.
- Other: _____

Testimonial Style

Biblical Example: The blind man in John 9

Theme Verse: 1 John 1:3a

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.

Traits

- Clear communicator
- Good listener
- Vulnerable about your personal life, ups and downs
- Overwhelmed by the account of how God reached you
- See links between your experience and that of other people

Cautions

- Be sure to relate your experience to the life of your friend. You need to first *listen* to them to be able to connect your story to their situation.
- Do not stop with merely telling your story. Challenge them to consider how what you learned might apply to their life.
- Don't downplay the value of your story because it seems too ordinary. Ordinary stories relate best to ordinary people!

Suggestions for Using and Developing This Style

- Practice so you will be able to tell your story without hesitation.
- Keep Christ and the gospel message as the centerpiece of your story. This is an account of how he changed your life.
- Keep your story fresh by adding new and current illustrations from your ongoing walk with Christ.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.
- Other: _____

Interpersonal Style

Biblical Example: Matthew in Luke 5:29

Theme Verse: 1 Corinthians 9:22b (NLT)

I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ.

Traits

- Relationally warm
- Conversational
- Compassionate
- Friendship-oriented
- Focuses on people and their needs

Cautions

- Beware of valuing friendship over truth. Telling people they are sinners in need of a savior will test relationships.
- Do not get so involved in the process of building friendships that you forget the ultimate goal: bringing people to know Christ as forgiver and leader.
- Don't get overwhelmed with the amount of needs your friends might have—do what you can and leave the rest to God.

Suggestions for Using and Developing This Style

- Be patient. This style tends to work more gradually than others. Look and pray for opportunities to turn conversations toward spiritual matters.
- Continually create and plan opportunities to interact with friends and new people through social events, sports, etc. This will put you in a place where your style can flourish.
- Practice telling the gospel message so you will be prepared when the opportunity arises.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.
- Other: _____

Invitational Style

Biblical Example: The woman at the well in John 4

Theme Verse: Luke 14:23

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."

Traits

- Hospitable
- Persuasive
- Enjoys meeting new people
- Enthusiastic
- Spiritually opportunistic

Cautions

- Don't let others do *all* the talking for you. Your friends and acquaintances need to hear how Christ influenced your life. In addition, they have questions you could answer concerning the implications of the gospel.
- Carefully and prayerfully consider which events or church services you take people to. Look for ones that are clear with truth but sensitive to the needs of spiritual seekers.
- Do not get discouraged if people refuse your invitation. Their refusal could be an opportunity for a spiritual conversation. Also, their "no" today may become a "yes" tomorrow.

Suggestions for Using and Developing This Style

- When inviting people, try to get written details about the event into their hands (either preprinted or handwritten). Whenever appropriate, offer to pick them up and do something together before or after the event.
- At events, mentally put yourself in the place of the other person. Ask yourself if you were that person whether the event would relate to your concerns and mind-set. Reinforce the positive aspects to the person you invited.
- Offer constructive feedback to the event sponsors consisting of specific and realistic ways you think they could improve the event and make it more compelling to the people you bring.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.
- Other: _____

Serving Style

Biblical Example: Tabitha (Dorcas) in Acts 9

Theme Verse: Matthew 5:16 (NLT)

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Traits

- Patient
- Others-centered
- Sees needs and finds joy in meeting them
- Shows love through action more than words
- Attaches value to even menial tasks

Cautions

- Remember that although “words are no substitute for actions,” “actions are no substitute for words” either! In Romans 10:14 Paul says that we must verbally tell people about Christ. You can do this in many ways as you point to him as the central motivation for your acts of service.
- Don’t underestimate the value of your service. It is your style that will reach the hardest-to-reach people. Acts of loving service are hard to resist and difficult to argue with.
- Be discerning as to how much you can do realistically, without depriving yourself or your family of needed care and attention.

Suggestions for Using and Developing This Style

- Find creative ways to communicate the spiritual motivation behind the service you offer. It could be through a word, a card, or an invitation.
- Seek God daily for opportunities to serve others for eternal purposes. He will open your eyes to areas you might have missed. Be ready to follow his leadings, even if they seem a bit out of the ordinary.
- Be careful not to impose your service on others. Pray for wisdom so you will know where to invest your efforts in ways that will be strategic for the kingdom of God.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.
- Other: _____