

Share The Gospel
 First Baptist Church Dandridge
 April-May 2024

Session Six: Responding to the Gospel

1. Which Way Do You Want to Live?

- a. **Two Ways to Live:** When we share the gospel with a person using the “Two Ways to Live” method, the title accurately indicates that every person has a decision to make. Notice that it’s not “Two Ways to Think” or “Two Ways to Believe” or “Two Ways to Feel,” but “Two Ways to Live,” indicating that a decision for Jesus always results in living a new life. Following Jesus isn’t merely a theological understanding or agreement, it’s a new direction in life. We’re not merely educating people about Jesus, but pleading with them to trust and follow Jesus.

- b. **Summary:** After explaining that God is ruler and creator, but we as humans have rebelled against him in sin, resulting in eternal judgment, we explain how the person and work of Jesus is our only hope, and we conclude by discussing how there are only “two ways to live.”
 - **Our Way:** Reject God as ruler, live our own way, face the earthly consequences of our rebellion, and suffer eternal judgment.
 - **God’s New Way:** Submit to Jesus as our ruler, rely on Jesus’ death and resurrection, obtain forgiveness, and receive a new life that lasts forever.
 - **John 3:36** – *“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”*
 - **Question:** Which way do you want to live?

- c. **Responses:** Every conversation is different, but it usually leads to a few responses.
 - “I’m not too sure” (i.e., I have further questions)
 - “I’m happy to live my way, thanks” (i.e., I don’t believe in God or the gospel, not interested.)
 - “I want to live God’s way, and I know that I’m currently not” (i.e., I’m not a Christian but would like to become one).

- “I want to live God’s way, and I already am” (i.e., I’m already a Christian).
- “I want to live God’s way, but I’m currently sort of halfway between (i.e., I’m not really a Christian, but I don’t know that I would classify myself as a ‘sinner’ either).

d. **Group Discussion:** Talk about how you might respond to the answer given to you.

- **No Thanks:** “Sorry, I don’t believe what you’re saying. I want to live my own way.”
- I want to change and start living God’s way.
- I’m already a Christian.
- **Halfway between:** “I like the thought of following Jesus and going to heaven, but I’m not sure if I’m ready to surrender my whole life to him.”

2. Responding to the Responses

a. No Thanks

- **Reasons:** There are several reasons a person might respond this way. (1) They don’t believe God exists. (2) Even if God exists, there’s no way to know for sure. (3) A loving God wouldn’t judge people to hell. (4) We can’t trust what the Bible teaches about Jesus because it’s been distorted and corrupted over the centuries. (4) Jesus never rose from the dead, so none of this is true.
- **Response:** (1) Discover why they don’t believe in XYZ. Ask them to explain why they’re so sure of their objection (e.g., “So, you think there are errors in the Bible. Could you show me a few?”). (2) Look for ways that Jesus satisfies their objections (e.g., “We know God exists because Jesus came to earth as God in human flesh;” “Because God sent Jesus into the world to be our Savior reveals that none of us are good enough to save ourselves;” “Jesus’ life is recorded in the Gospels, which are well-attested, historically reliable, and compelling.” Equip yourself with the necessary knowledge and resources to help a person see the truth.

- **Further:** Ask the person if they would be willing to read a Gospel with you. Allow the Holy Spirit to work through Scripture to open their eyes to the truth. This will also allow the conversation to continue.

b. I want to live God's way

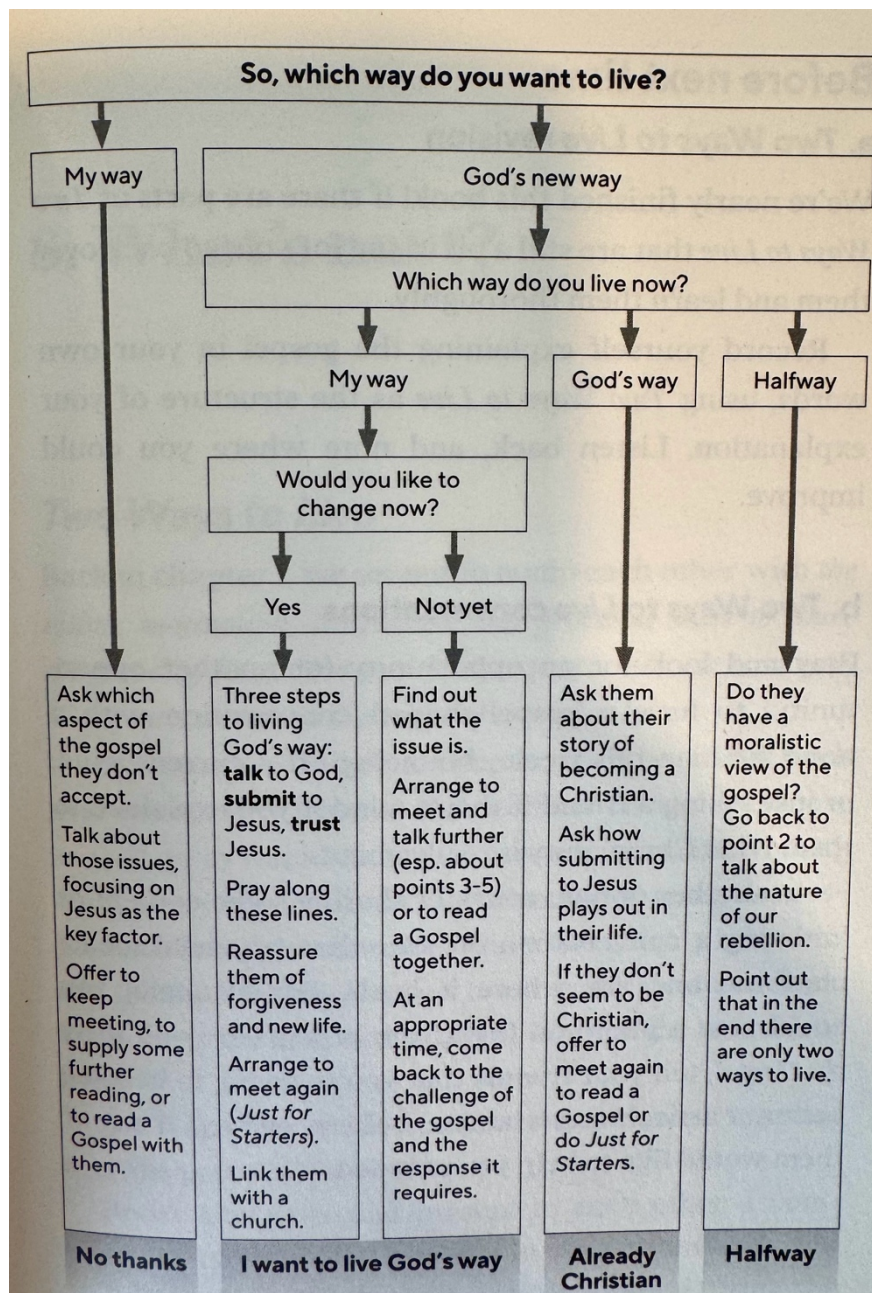
- **Reasons:** (1) They sense spiritual conviction and guilt that they are not living rightly and want forgiveness. (2) They understand their need for Jesus to save them.
- **Hesitations:** (1) They need to process all they have heard about the gospel and want some time to think. (2) They have legitimate questions that need to be answered. (3) They had past sins and issues that make them wonder if God can forgive them. These hesitations need to be met with grace, prayer, and further discussion.
- **Response:** Talk, Submit, and Trust. (1) Talk to God by confessing that you're a rebel, and ask him to forgive you and change you. (2) Submit to Jesus by beginning to live with Jesus as your ruler, listening to his word and obeying it. (3) Trust Jesus by continuing to rely on him for forgiveness through his death. Lead them to pray, asking Jesus to save them. It doesn't have to be a specific prayer, but one that expresses their belief and need for Jesus.
- **Further:** Commit to following up with them, helping them understand what it looks like to follow Jesus (i.e., discipleship). Point them to a local church.

c. Already a Christian

- **Response:** If someone mentions that they're already a believer, it's best to ask a few questions to verify that their faith is genuine. (1) Ask them for their story or testimony. Listen for a correct understanding of the gospel and evidence of a new life. (2) Ask them about their daily walk with Jesus. (3) Verify that if they were to suddenly die, they have full confidence that they would meet the Lord in heaven. If for some reason their answers do not give strong evidence that they belong to Christ, discuss further what the Bible teaches about what real faith and life look like.
- **Further:** Find out if they are active in a local church. If not, invite them to attend with you.

d. Halfway Between

- **Reasons:** (1) They're not sure if they want to give Jesus full control of their life. (2) They're not ready to give up certain sins. (3) They don't take God's judgment seriously. (4) They wrongly assume that the Christian life is filled with religious activities while still living your own way.
- **Response:** Reemphasize the biblical teachings concerning God's future judgment. Also, describe the danger of resisting the Holy Spirit's witness, hardness of heart, etc.



- **Further:** Continue meeting with them. Be prepared to answer future questions. Continued pleading with them to follow Jesus.