

"Evangelism and Discipleship: The Anglican Way"

Biblical Foundations, Anglican History, and Practical Application

1. Evangelism is Discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20)

- The Great Commission commands us to *make disciples*, not just believers.
- Believers accept the gospel; disciples grow in faith through relationships and accountability.

2. Jesus' Roadmap for Evangelism (Luke 10:1-11)

1. **Speak Peace** – Approach others with kindness.
2. **Build Relationships** – Spend time with people.
3. **Be a Healing Presence** – Meet their needs.
4. **Proclaim the Kingdom** – Share the gospel.
5. **Don't Take Rejection Personally** – Trust God with the results.
6. **Let God Be the Judge** – Rely on His work, not our efforts.

3. Augustine's Mission & Anglican Evangelism

- **Augustine of Canterbury (AD 596):** Sent to convert the Anglo-Saxons, built relationships, and lived among them.
- **Encounter with Celtic Christians:**
 - Rooted in Apostolic traditions, forced westward by Anglo-Saxon invasions.
 - Synod of Whitby (AD 664) reconciled different practices, shaping English Christianity.
- **Anglican evangelism emphasizes relational discipleship and historical continuity.**

4. The Importance of Relational Evangelism

Why is Evangelism Relational?

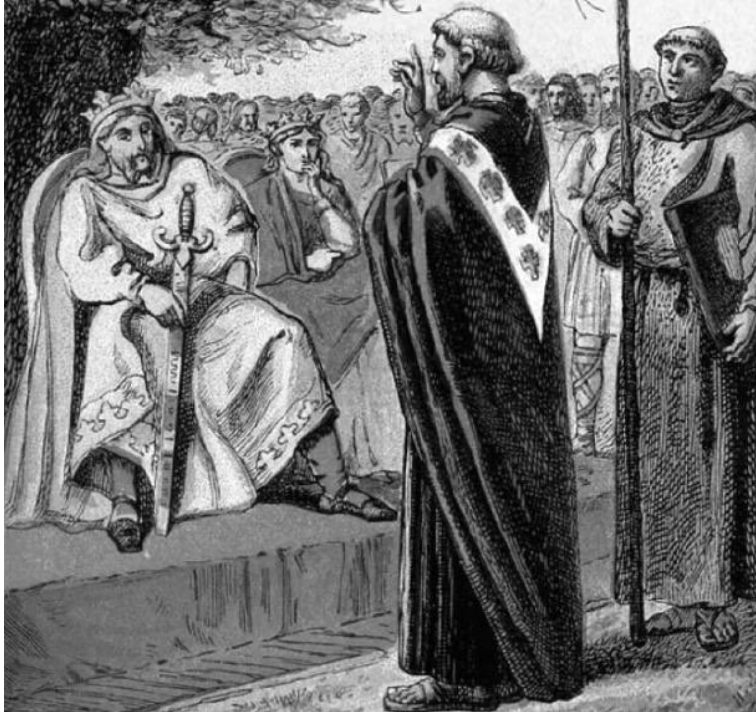
- The Great Commission calls us to make disciples, not just converts (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

- Discipleship is not just about sharing information—it's about walking alongside others in faith.
- Jesus formed relationships before calling people to follow Him. He ate with sinners, spent time with the marginalized, and asked questions (Luke 19:1-10, John 4:1-26).
- Augustine's mission was not just about proclamation—he and his team lived among the people and built trust over time.

Why Do Relationships Matter in Evangelism?

- People are more likely to hear the gospel from someone they trust.
- Faith grows in community. True discipleship happens when people are integrated into the life of the Church.
- Listening and responding well are acts of love. Before people are ready to hear the gospel, they need to feel seen and valued.

“We’ve seen how Jesus and Augustine prioritized relationships in evangelism. But what does that look like in our daily lives? The first step is learning how to love people well—starting with the way we listen.”



Practical Application: *How to Love People by Listening*

Listening is the act of putting someone else first in a conversation. Good listening makes space to know and love the other person more fully. It creates fertile ground for the gospel to grow in people's hearts.

Three Keys to Good Listening:

- 1. Focus**
- 2. Curiosity**
- 3. Insight**

1. Focus

Being a good listener requires focus, which can be difficult in a world full of distractions. To listen well, practice focusing both your body and your mind.

- Focus your body by putting down your phone, facing the person you're talking to, and making eye contact. Remove distractions that might pull your attention away.
- Focus your mind by saying a quick prayer, clearing your thoughts, and setting aside any personal agenda that may hinder you from truly listening.

What keeps you from focusing on a conversation? *Circle what applies:*

- Phone notifications
- Thinking of the next thing on your calendar
- People-watching
- Planning what you want to say next
- Lack of interest in the conversation

By giving others our full attention, we communicate that they matter, they are loved, and they are worth listening to. The next time you're in a conversation, be aware of distractions and practice renewing your focus.

2. Curiosity

Once you're focused, it's much easier to be curious. Curiosity is the art of uncovering a person's story by asking good questions. It expresses love by keeping the conversation centered on the other person instead of yourself.

There are two dimensions to curiosity:

Being Curious About the Other Person

Ask follow-up questions like:

- *Can you tell me more about that?*
- *Why do you think/feel that way?*
- *How has that impacted you?*

Resist the urge to shift the conversation back to yourself. Let the other person lead where the conversation goes.

Being Curious About God's Work

Look for signs that God is preparing the person's heart to receive the gospel. Ask God these two questions:

1. *How are You at work in this person's story?*
2. *How do You want to use me in what You are doing?*

3. Insight

As you listen with focus and curiosity, trust the Holy Spirit to give you insight.

- Your insight may come as the right question to ask or an observation to share.
- Sometimes, the Spirit will give you wisdom to offer the person you're talking with.
- Sharing insight in a sensitive way can help someone take the next step toward Jesus.

Example from Jesus

Jesus' insight for the rich young man was unexpected:

"Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Mark 10:21)

Jesus knew the man's heart and what he needed to take his next step toward God.

Though the man initially walked away sad (Mark 10:22), early Christians believed he was later transformed—possibly becoming Joseph of Arimathea.

Sharing insight is an act of love. It meets others where they are and helps them take their next step in faith. Insight comes as you listen to both the Holy Spirit and the person you're engaging with.

Review of the Three Keys to Great Listening:

- Focus: Being fully attentive physically and mentally.
- Curiosity: Learning another person's story by asking good questions.
- Insight: Following the Spirit's prompting to help others take their next step toward Christ.

In conversations, focus, curiosity, and insight are all expressions of love. Being a great listener is one way to extend God's love to your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We can love others well because we are already fully known and loved by God.

Practical Application: *Three Things to Consider When Someone Asks You a Hard Question*

Feeling like we do not know the answers to hard questions can keep us from having spiritual conversations.

Which of the following questions do you feel unequipped to answer?

(Choose up to 3)

- Why does God allow evil and suffering?
- Aren't there tons of contradictions in the Bible?
- Why would a good God send people to hell?
- How do we know Jesus really died and rose from the grave?
- Can someone who believes in another religion still go to heaven?
- Other: _____

It is impossible to know the answer to every question you might encounter. So how should you respond when someone asks a question you do not know how to answer?

Consider these three things:

1. Listen for genuine questions.
2. Stick to what you do know.
3. Discover answers together.

1. Listen for Genuine Questions

Sometimes people use questions to avoid discussing deeper spiritual matters. For example, when Jesus confronted a woman about her sin, she tried to divert the conversation to a theological debate (John 4:16-20).

How do you respond to someone who seems to be looking for an argument?

In these cases, remember the advice in 2 Timothy 2:23:

"Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights."

At other times, people may genuinely be wrestling with deep questions. To discern sincerity, ask something like:

"Why is this issue so important to you?"

Walking with someone on their spiritual journey often involves helping them find answers to their questions.

2. Focus on What You Know

Imagine a friend asks why a good God would allow her father to pass away suddenly. Several responses might come to mind, but some will be more helpful than others.

Which response do you think would be most helpful?

- Sharing Isaiah 45:7 — "I create the light and make the darkness. I send good times and bad times. I, the Lord, am the one who does these things."
- Sharing a personal story about how God has comforted you through your own significant loss.
- Acknowledging that we do not always understand why God allows suffering but can still trust Him.

Sometimes, a personal story speaks to the heart of a question better than a theological debate. Sharing how God has worked in your life may be more impactful than giving a complex theological explanation.

3. Discover Answers Together

Some questions require a more theological response. If you are unsure how to answer, be honest. Admitting that you do not know and offering to explore the answer together can help build trust and remove pressure to be an "expert."

Ways to discover answers together:

- Spend a couple of days researching and discussing what you find.
- Invite a mentor or pastor to share their perspective—if your friend is comfortable with it.

Hard questions do not have to be intimidating. By listening well, sharing your own experiences, and being open to learning, you and your friend can find answers together.

Reflect:

- **Which part of Jesus' roadmap do you find hardest?**
- **How can you apply listening as a way to love others this week?**
- **How can we, as a church, model relational discipleship in our community?**

Challenge: Choose one practical step this week and pray for an opportunity to apply it.

