

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Evangelism in a Skeptical World

Week 3

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- ~~Week 1~~ Introduction
 - ~~What is Evangelism? The Gospel?~~
- ~~Week 2 Ch1~~ Theology of Evangelism
 - ~~Models of Evangelism~~
- **Week 3 Ch2** Everyday Evangelism
 - Evangelism Strategies 1-6



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **Week 4** *Ch3* How to Craft a Gospel Presentation
 - How to present the Gospel, then and now
- **Week 5** *Ch4* Evangelism to Postmoderns
 - Modernism and Postmodernism
- **Week 6** *Ch5* Contextualization for Evangelism
 - The Gospel and Culture



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **Week 7 Ch5** Contextualization for Evangelism
 - How to Interpret Culture, Thoughts, Themes, Story
- **Week 8 Ch6** Gospel-Cultural Hermeneutics
 - Enter, Challenge, Fulfill
- **Week 9 Ch7** Storytelling the Gospel
 - Styles of Learning, Story-telling



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **Week 10** Ch8 How to Give Evangelistic Topical Talks
 - What is a Topical Talk and how to give one
- **Week 11** Ch9 How to Give Evangelistic Expository Talks
 - What is an Expository Talks and how to give one
- **Week 12** Ch10 Religious Epistemology, Apologetics
 - Moving People from Hostile to Loyal



Everyday Evangelism

Chapter 2



Go Tell It!

- Have you heard:
 - Invite your friends to church!
 - Tell your friends about Jesus!
- When you hear this what do you think?
 - I don't have any non-Christians friends
 - I don't know how to do it!
- So, how can I tell my friends about Jesus?



Six strategies for evangelism

1. Get our friends to become their friends
2. Go to them before they come to you
3. Coffee, Dinner, Gospel
4. Listen to their story
5. Tell our story as a story
6. Tell a story about Jesus



Everyday Evangelism

Get Our Friends To Become Their Friends (Strategy 1)

Chapter 2



Get our friends to become their friends

- Imagine this:



- Now imagine this:



Which story

- Which story do you believe?
 - If you are not a believer both stories sound unbelievable
- Why do we believe, as Christians, the story about Jesus but not Bigfoot?
 - If you can believe one crazy story, why not another?
- We have “plausibility structures” that lead us to believe or not believe stories



Plausibility Structures

- What are plausibility structures?
 - They are accepted beliefs, convictions, and understandings that either mark truth claims as plausible or mark them as implausible
- This is not about the facts its about what is believed
 - Telling someone its true whether they believe it or not probably won't change their belief



Where Does It Come From?

- Where do we get plausibility structures?
 - Community
 - Experience
 - Facts, Evidence, Data
- We, as Christians,
 - Are in a **community** that believes in Jesus
 - Have **experiences** with Jesus
 - We believe in the **evidence** of Jesus



What is Most Influential?

- Between community, experience, and evidence
 - Which is the most influential?
 - Facts, Evidence, Data?
 - Not really
 - What if I told you I had video evidence of bigfoot?
 - What if I told you there's a place I see him all the time?
 - Would you believe me?
 - Probably not



Community

- Our community, our trusted friends, family
 - They have the most influence on what we believe
- Take for example the right to bear arms
 - In the US a large portion of Bible believing church going people support the right
 - In Australia the same community do not support this right



Community Beliefs

- Community plays a large role in belief
- People with very similar experiences and beliefs
 - Can have very different beliefs on many issues
- They have the same facts, evidence, and data
 - But interpret them differently



Back to Bigfoot

- Most of my friends believe in Bigfoot
- I go to conventions with thousands of other people who believe in Bigfoot
- There is just too much evidence to not believe in bigfoot



The Key Idea

- “People will find a story more believable if more people in their community, their trusted friends and family, also believe the story.”



³ For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:3–7



The Key Idea

- “People will find a story more believable if more people in their community, their trusted friends and family, also believe the story.”
 - Paul increases the believability of the resurrection
 - By telling ALL the people who saw it
 - It is true that Jesus rose from the dead
 - Whether 500 people saw it or not
 - But 500 people seeing it makes it more believable



Why so Much About Community?

- When we talk about evangelism what do you imagine?
 - I'm going to make some non-Christian friends
 - Join a book club, Karate, pickleball
 - Great!!!
- But I'm the only Christian there!
 - When I talk about Jesus I sound like a crazy person
 - So, what can I do?!



Merge Your Friends

- It is time to bring your two friend universes together
- When your non-Christian friends do something
 - Bring some Christian friends
- When your Christian friends do something
 - Bring your non-Christian friends
- Maybe a 50/50 split makes everyone more comfortable
- Now Jesus is more believable



This Will Take Some Time

- This method is not a quick thing
 - To make friendships that have trust takes time
 - Time here is measured in years
- So, the hard part
 - Go out and make friends!



Everyday Evangelism

Go To Them Before They Come To You (Strategy 2)

Chapter 2



Go to them before they come to you

- So how do I get my non-Christian friends to hang out with my Christian friends?
 - You hang out with your non-Christian friends
 - Spend time with them enjoying your friendship
 - When you and your friend spend time doing different activities together
 - Then when you invite them to a church activity it will be natural, not weird and or scary



Everyday Evangelism

Coffee, Dinner, Gospel (Strategy 3)

Chapter 2

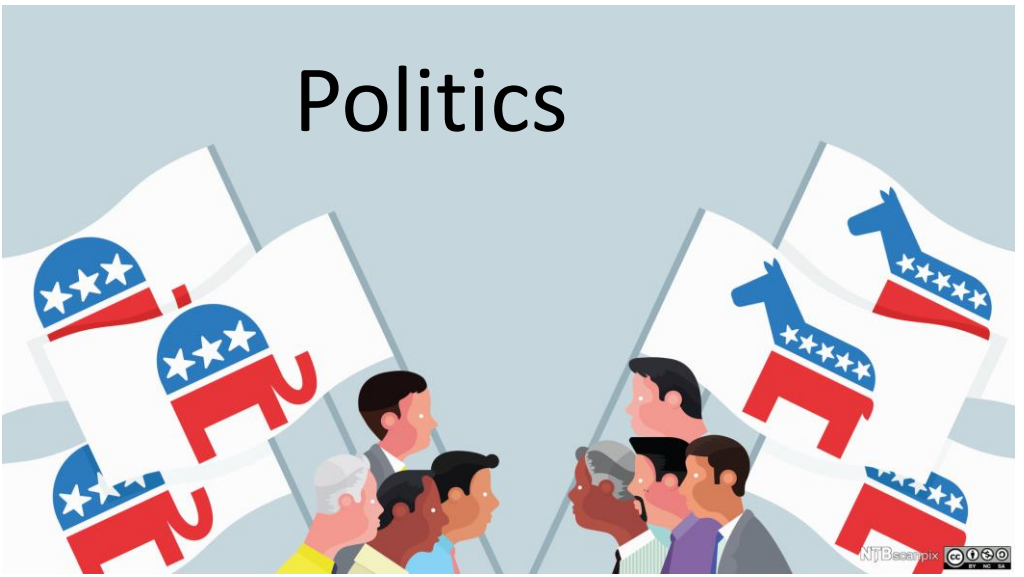


- What are some topics **not** to be discussed at the dinner table?

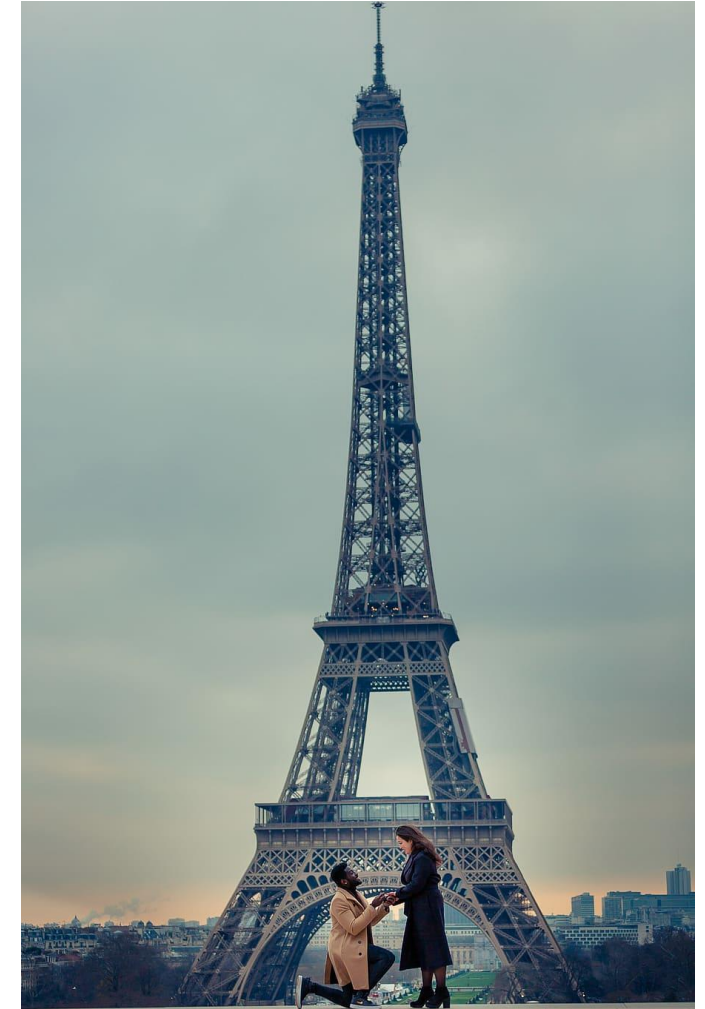
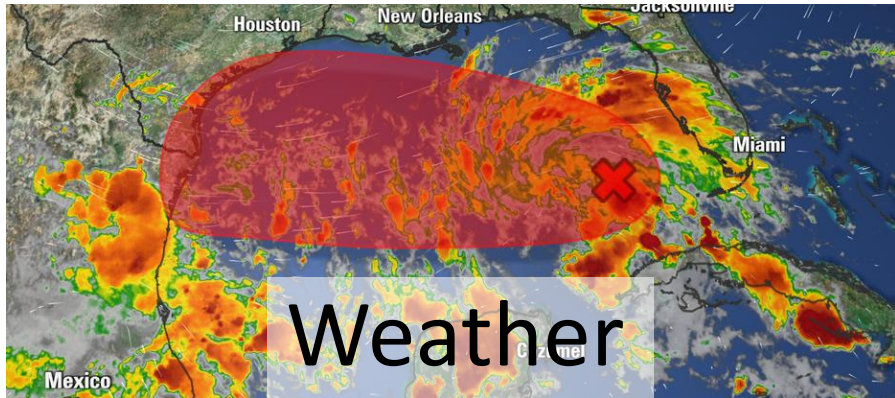


Bathroom

Politics



- What are some topics to be discussed at the dinner table?



Coffee, Dinner, Gospel

- Why are some topics “safe” to discuss while others are not?
 - When can prove one while the other can not
- A German philosopher, Immanuel Kant discusses this in
 - The Kantian Noumenal-Phenomenal Divide



Noumenal

- Noumenal deals with
 - God, ethics, and values
 - Example
 - There is a God
 - Gambling is wrong
 - Capitalism is better than socialism



Phenomenal

- Phenomenal deals with
 - Facts, evidence, and data
 - Example
 - One plus one equals two
 - The sky is blue
 - Water boils at 212F



What's the Point

- Noumenal statements create arguments
 - Those who believe in God or capitalism can't prove it to those who disagree
- So, we stick to phenomenal topic, less fighting
- This divide in the west has led to the
 - Sacred-Secular divide



Sacred-Secular Divide

- What's the point?
 - We have created a culture where it is unacceptable to discuss religion
 - We are free to discuss religion, but it is shunned
- Is this practically any different than a country that legally bans religion?



Is It Everywhere?

- Is the Sacred-Secular divide everywhere?
 - No, it is unique to western civilization
 - People from other countries do not have this cultural hangup
- This is why we feel so uncomfortable talking about Jesus
 - It goes against how we were taught to act
 - This is how most Christian and non-Christian feel



What Do I Do?

- Start with coffee
 - It's a public venue
 - It's safe, they can escape at anytime
 - There is a time frame of 20-30 min.
- Do this a few times
 - Talk about safe things, the Astros, weather, ...



Then to Dinner

- Next is dinner
 - Dinner is longer 1-2 hours
 - Is in a more private space
 - This means less trivial topics can start
 - Education, politics, maybe even religion
 - Remember to listen to them
 - Don't shove your thoughts down their throats
 - (Note to Brad)



Conversation

- How does conversation work?
 - It is like an onion, it has layers
 - Outer Layer: Interests (sports, books, games)
 - Middle Layer: Values (Gun laws, school policies, voting)
 - Central Layer: Worldviews (Life after death, is there a God, are we good or evil)



Progression Values

- When people feel safe and listened to, they will open up
 - We can help by asking questions
 - What do you like or dislike about that book
 - Why do you think that team cheated? Where the players evil?
 - This allows people to discuss their values



Progression Worldview

- When people feel comfortable sharing their values
 - They will move onto their worldview
 - This is where the following questions come in
 - “What do you think this all means anyway?”
 - “What are your views on the soul?”
 - “Do you pray?”
- Remember this is you listening
 - (Note to Brad)



Word of Warning

- People typically don't beg you to discuss deep topics like
 - "Where will you go when you die"
- They may ask subtle questions a couple of time
 - If you do not talk to them about it the moment is over
 - And may never come again
- Remember it is important for you to listen
 - (Note to Brad)



Everyday Evangelism

Listen To Their Story (Strategy 4)

Chapter 2



Listen to Their Story

- The most important thing you can do to share Jesus is
 - To Shut Up
 - And listen
- Listened to them with
 - Respect
 - Understanding
 - Empathy



Listen to Their Story

- When you listen
 - Don't stop listening by thinking about
 - “What am I going to say next”
 - “Well, that’s wrong and this is why”
- Listen to why they feel the way they feel
 - Be empathetic to what they feel
 - Translation, care about the story



Engage in Their Story

- Ask question to better understand them
 - How did you become Buddhist
 - Why'd you quit going to church
 - How do you worship
- Don't act interested in their story
 - Be interested in their story



It's Your Turn

- By showing respect to their life and story
 - They will show respect to what you have to share
- Remember we are called to share the gospel
 - It is not our job to make them accept it
 - But we need to do our best to make sure they really hear the gospel
 - And this can be done by listening



Everyday Evangelism

Tell Our Story as a Story (Strategy 5)

Chapter 2



Ok It's Our Turn

- They just opened up about their life
 - They were vulnerable, honest, unprepared
- So, we come out of the gate with
 - Let's turn to Romans 3:23
 - "All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God"
- **Awkward!**



To Be Clear

- There is a time to open the Word of God and show someone what God said
 - What we are doing now is sharing the gospel through a story of the gospel in our lives
 - This is how the gospel works in my life
 - This is why I follow Jesus



To Be Clear

- Questions may be asked after this point like
 - “How can I be saved?”
 - “Why is Jesus the only way?”
 - “What about all the other religions?”
- This is where we need to be prepared with a defense
 - This is where we open the Word and show why
- But we have reached a place where they will listen



How Do I Tell My Story

- First you might say “Do you want to hear why I’m a Christian?”
 - Not how I became or why others became a Christian
 - But why I am a Christian
- Let me tell you my story
- I have to tell a STORY?!
 - Let’s talk about story telling



How To Tell a Story

- First stories have two parts
 1. Events that happened to me
 2. An arrangement of these events
- If you have one without the other it is either
 1. A rambling incoherent list of events
 2. Or a formulaic theological presentation



Story Grid

- To help write your story we will use the “Greek Rule of Threes”
 - Introduction
 - Body
 - Conclusion



Greek Rule of Threes

- Introduction: Introduced to the hero of the story
- Definition of the mission: The hero must accomplish a mission
- Body: The hero progressively overcomes obstacles to achieve this mission



Greek Rule of Threes

- Bridge: The mission is once again defined in an “ah-ha” moment
 - All that has happened up until now is summarized
 - The hero recommits to the mission, ready to launch into the climax
- Climax: The mission is achieved
- Outcome: We are given a glimpse of the new normal world



Story Outline

- Introduction: I am [*describe yourself*], and my mission is to [*state your mission*]. For example, [*now give an example*]
- Body: So I tried to achieve my mission in these ways: [*give examples*]. But [*now explain the problem of trying to achieve your mission without God*]. For example, [*now give an example*]



Story Outline

- Bridge: But this is what Jesus has done for me. [*Explain how Jesus fulfills your mission*]
- Climax: That's when I decided [*explain how you decided to follow Jesus*]
- Outcome: So now [*explain what living with Jesus looks like in your life now*]. For example, [*now give an example*]



Where To Start

- Who am I?
- What is my mission?
- Once you figure this out
 - The rest of your story will flow



Story Outline

- Introduction: I am [*describe yourself*], and my mission is to [*state your mission*]. For example, [*now give an example*]
 - I am a chameleon
 - My mission was to always fit in, to be accepted
 - I started cussing like a sailor in 6th grade because that's what everyone else did



Story Outline

- **Body:** So I tried to achieve my mission in these ways: *[give examples]*. But *[now explain the problem of trying to achieve your mission without God]*. For example, *[now give an example]*
- I told bad/dirty jokes in high school because that's what everyone else did
- My problem was, I had to remember who I was based on who I was with. And make sure these groups never met.



Story Outline

- **Bridge: But this is what Jesus has done for me. [*Explain how Jesus fulfills your mission*]**
- But in college I was faced with a person who lived multiple lives that did not match, I didn't know who I should be
- I couldn't get everyone to accept me all the time
- But God did accept me as I am
- I don't need to change to be accepted



Story Outline

- **Climax: That's when I decided [*explain how you decided to follow Jesus*]**
- That's when I decided I didn't need to change me to be accepted
- Jesus accepted me as I was, weird, insecure, nervous
- Jesus showed me the rough spots that have formed on me from putting on all those other characters
- And that I need to shed the rough spots so I can be the person God always intended me to be



Story Outline

- **Outcome:** So now [*explain what living with Jesus looks like in your life now*]. For example, [*now give an example*]
- Now I don't worry about mixing my friends
- I don't worry if what I say is weird or will be accepted by others
- I have changed, I don't cuss but that's not because I am trying to "fit in" somewhere else
 - It's because it's not who I was made to be



Everyday Evangelism

Tell a Story About Jesus (Strategy 6)

Chapter 2



Tell a story about Jesus

- After giving your story you might ask
 - “Would you like to hear a story that explains my story?”
- Take a story from the Bible that compliments yours
 - Don’t tell it word for word
 - Paraphrase it
 - Use modern English words (No thee and thou)



Tell a story about Jesus

- Then ask questions
 - What things were hard to understand?
 - What did you like in the story?
 - What does the story want us to do?
- Don't correct their answers
- Don't make them hunt for the answer you want
- This is all meant to generate curiosity



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