

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Evangelism in a Skeptical World

Week 10

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



How to Give Evangelistic Topical Talks

What Are They? And Are They Ok?

Chapter 8



You Are Invited

- Alison was invited to give a talk at a church event
 - Specifically, a health care event
 - Free medical checkups
 - Personal trainer on exercise
 - A nutritionist on eating
 - Then its Alison's turn, so she hits them with
 - Repent and be saved sinner!



HA! HA!

- The old bait and switch
 - I thought this was just a health care event?!
- Gotcha! We tricked you here to tell you about Jesus!
- When people come to an event they assume
 - It is all about the advertised topic
 - Health care should be about health care
- People don't like to be blindsided



If Not Sin and Repentance

- Alison is supposed to give an evangelistic talk
 - If not on sin and repentance what?
 - Jesus is more important than your physical health?
 - All the work the other presenters did is meaningless then?
- We, as Christians, are more comfortable sticking to
 - Here is what the Bible says
 - And this is how it works in your life



Topical Talks

- Is there another way to share the gospel then
 - This is what the bible says, this is what you need to do
 - The technical term for this is “expository talk”
- Another option is a “Topical Talk”
 - This is where you start with a topic, health, pleasure, Santa Claus
 - Then discuss the issue,
 - What’s good/bad about it
 - But when God is involved...





DISCIPLESHIP
PATHWAY

Is Topical Preaching Wrong

- Issue 1: Let the Bible talk
 - Topical preaching shifts the focus away from the Bible
 - It is human centered and not God centered
 - Should we go from
 - The Bible to our world
 - Look for what the Bible says about our world
 - Or from our world to the Bible
 - What does the Bible say about this issue



The Agenda

- The big issue seems to be who is setting the agenda
 - God or Me?
- Should I study Gods Word
 - Then seek to change my life to match
 - God sets the agenda
- Or



The Agenda

- When I have questions about life
 - Medical, Work, Travel, Kids, Marriage
 - I look to the Bible for the answers
 - This is me centered, I set the agenda
 - I look to God to comfort me
 - To fix my problem(s)
 - To tell me what to do



All One Way

- The issue is
 - If all you do is read the Bible to answer the troubles in your life, “me centered”
 - You are going to miss out on how God wants you to change, “God centered”
- Don’t just seek God out for the issues you think you have
- Seek God out for the issues you don’t know you have
- We should be doing both the Topical and Inductive



How to Give Evangelistic Topical Talks

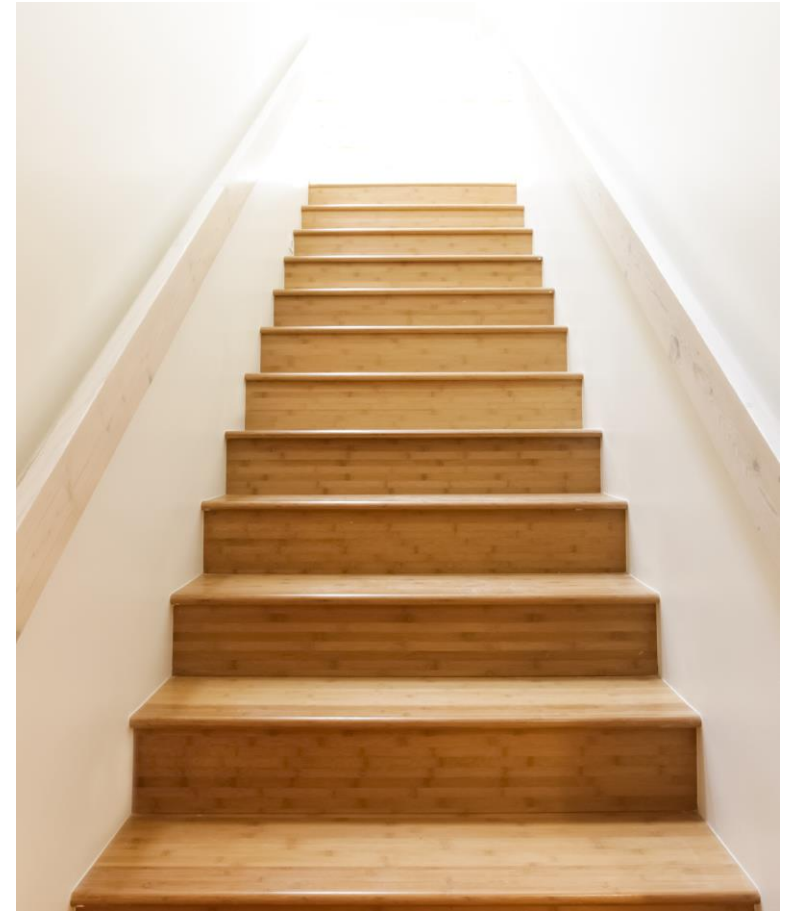
How To Prepare a Topical Talk

Chapter 8



Four Steps

- Step 1: Move from the topic to a big idea
- Step 2: Outline a bird's-eye view of the talk
- Step 3: Explore the logical sequence of ideas in the Body of the talk
- Step 4: Flesh out the body of the talk



Step 1

- Step 1: Move from the topic to a big idea
 - Keep things simple
 - Have a single topic
 - And a single “big idea”
 - Start with a topic
 - Define the issue
 - Argue for a point (The point is the “big idea”)



What Is a Topic (Step 1)

- Sometimes you pick a topic, sometimes it's picked for you
- But what is a topic? Let's discuss four examples
 - Health
 - Beer
 - Success
 - Christmas



Don't Be Boring (Step 1)

- Topics alone are not exciting
 - Today we will talk about health
 - Today I'll tell you the real meaning of Christmas



Define the Issue (Step 1)

- Convert the topic to an issue
 - What's the existential or emotional connection?
 - What problems does it create?
 - What's culturally relevant about that topic?
 - Where does this topic meet the felt needs of real people?



Define the Issue (Step 1)

- Health
 - “I’m getting older. How can I stay healthy so that I can keep up with my grandchildren?”
- Beer
 - “I like beer. How can I get more enjoyment out of having a beer?”



Define the Issue (Step 1)

- Success
 - “How do you define success? What are you doing to get there? How can you be successful in life and in work?”
- Christmas
 - “Christmas comes and goes every year. How can I be blessed this Christmas?”

Argue for a Point (Step 1)

- Come up with a point to argue for
 - But how do I know if I have a good point?
 1. It answers the question raised by the issue
 2. It has an obvious opposite point
 3. It can be supported by appeals to evidence and stories
- This section is the short pitch about your topic and its issues

Argue for a Point (Step 1)

- Health
 - “Being healthy means looking after all aspects of health—physical, emotional, and spiritual.”
 - “We need to be healthy toward God.”
- Beer
 - “No one enjoys drinking alone; the perfect beer is one drunk with a friend.”
 - “Beer is a gift from God to be enjoyed in a right relationship with God.”

Argue for a Point (Step 1)

- Success
 - “Success is more a gift from God than something we earn.”
 - “The ultimate success that matters is being right with God.”
- Christmas
 - “God wants to bless us at Christmas.”
 - “God’s blessing comes to us as the gift of his Son, Jesus.”

Bird's-eye View of the Talk (Step 2)

- Outline the talk
 - Introduction, body, bridge, and conclusion
- Introduction (3-5 min)
 - Tell a fun story that
 - Gets our audience's attention
 - Sets up the topic and raises the issue
 - Promises an answer (our point; but don't reveal it yet!)
 - Maybe give an outline of the structure of our talk



Bird's-eye View of the Talk (Step 2)

- Body (10-15 min)
 - Share the point one piece at a time
- Bridge (1-3 min)
 - Sum it all up, topic, issue, and the point
- Conclusion (3-5 min)
 - Apply the point with an example or illustration



Explore the Logical Sequence (Step 3)

- Explore the Logical Sequence of Ideas in the Body of the Talk
- This is the body of the talk
 1. Resonance
 2. Dissonance or deficiency
 3. The gospel as fulfillment



Resonance (Step 3)

- This is where we try to get the audience nodding with us
 - We describe the cultural story
 - They hear the story and say, “That’s me!”
 - We build rapport with them
 - They understand me



Dissonance or Deficiency (Step 3)

- This is where we put the audience on their heels
 - There is an issue with your worldview
 - “I never thought of things that way”
 - “Maybe I have a problem”
 - Don’t make any giant logical leaps
 - Keep the point simple



The Gospel as Fulfillment (Step 3)

- Deliver the gospel as the answer to the issue we raised
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of the story
 - Jesus is the happy ending
 - The whole point here is to connect Jesus to them
 - Jesus is the answer



The Beer Example

- Resonance: Beer is good
 - It is a gift from God to enjoy, part of the luxury that he has built into his good creation (Ps. 104:15)
- Dissonance or deficiency: But what makes beer good to drink?
 - It's company. Beer is designed to be drunk with friends.
 - When we drink alone, that's when we realize we have a problem with drinking
 - Beer is designed to be drunk with others



The Beer Example

- Gospel as fulfillment:
 - So even if beer is a good gift from a good God for us to enjoy, it's designed for us to enjoy in relationship
 - And that's especially true for our relationship with God
 - We need a right relationship with God
 - We're not just meant to enjoy the gift; we're meant to enjoy the giver



Success Example

- Resonance:
 - Ever since childhood, we've been taught that we can be successful at anything as long as we believe and try.
 - This is what the story of the Little Engine That Could has been telling us!



Success Example

- Dissonance or deficiency:
 - But we also know that not everyone will succeed
 - So even though everyone can win, not every will win
 - Worse, if we win in one area of life, we may not win in another area
 - If we succeed at our careers, something else will likely suffer—our family, friendships, maybe our health



Success Example

- Dissonance or deficiency:
 - Because we live in a meritocracy, we praise our winners
 - But then we must also blame our losers
 - We think they lost because they didn't try or believe enough or dream enough



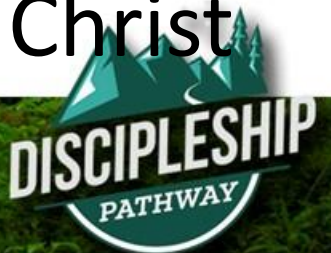
Success Example

- Gospel as fulfillment:
- Jesus tells a story of a man who is successful
 - But the story hints that his success is a gift from God:
 - “The ground produced” (Luke 12:16)
- Even though we might work for our success, in the end we need to acknowledge that much of our success is really a gift from God



Success Example

- Gospel as fulfillment:
- Recognizing this frees us to be the best we can be with what God has given us
- True success and joy come when we enjoy our successes as gifts and trust God in our failures
- But more than that, the true success is whether we are “rich toward God” (Luke 12:21)
- This too is a gift from God made possible by Jesus Christ



Christmas Day Visitors

- Why do some people only come to Church at Christmas?
 - They are bad people
 - They hope God will help them out if they come once?
 - Bunch of Creasters!
 - Or maybe they came with hope that maybe this Christ can help them?
- Their cry is I need help! For my health, marriage, kids, ...



Christmas Day Visitors

- The talk could start
 - Today we have come looking for a blessing
 - And why not today of all days, Christmas
 - Let's look at three ways to try and get a blessing
 - We can treat God as a magic charm
 - We can try to earn His blessing
 - Lots of examples here
 - Or



Christmas Day Visitors

- We can get a blessing when we accept Jesus as a gift
- This completes the storyline of the once a year visitor
 - I'm searching for a blessing in all the places
 - But they never seem to work
- Or maybe start
 - "Today we have come to church on Christmas Day hoping that God will notice us and touch our lives in some way. Maybe he'll work a miracle."



Flesh out the Body (Step 4)

- Flesh out the body of the talk
 - Use the Five Building Blocks of Communication:
 1. State the idea
 2. Illustrate it
 3. Explain it
 4. Give an example
 5. Give a payload or application



Sam Chans Example: (Step 4)

- Sam Chans Silly Example:
 1. Many Asians can't swim
 2. Asians sink like rocks in the water
 3. This is because swimming is not historically a big part of Asian culture
 4. For example, I was the only kid in my class who couldn't swim
 5. So the next time you're at a pool party, don't push me into the water



Success Example (Step 4)

- State it: “Success is a gift we get from God rather than something we earn by hard work.”
- Example: My wife is much better at the piano than me
- But I’ve practiced more on the piano than she has
- Yet she’s still better than me
- That’s because she’s gifted in a way I’m not



Success Example (Step 4)

- Usain Bolt is much more successful than me at running 100 meter sprints
- But I've trained. I've taken coaching. Yet he's still faster than me.
- Why? Because he's gifted in a way I'm not



Success Example (Step 4)

- Much of our success comes from factors out of our control
 - We didn't choose our parents
 - We didn't choose what country we grew up in
 - We didn't choose what schools we got sent to



Success Example (Step 4)

- Explain:
 - In the Bible, Jesus explains that success is given to us by God (Luke 12:16 Parable of the rich fool)
 - Sure, we must work hard
 - But that's not the full story of success
 - The story is whether God gives us our success (James 4:13–17 God's will not ours)



Success Example (Step 4)

- Payload:
 - We need to redefine success
 - Success is when God wills it for us
 - If God gives us success be humble, it was a gift
 - If we don't get success trust God has other plans
 - This frees us to enjoy God's good will for us
 - This also means success should be defined as being right with God



Success Example (Step 4)

- Illustration:
 - Imagine you're taking an exam
 - You are sweating over the first half of the test
 - Worth 30%
 - You spend all your time there and skip the last half
 - Worth 70%



Success Example (Step 4)

- That's us when we worry about
 - How much money will I make?
 - How far will I climb the corporate ladder?
 - Will my family impress everyone?
- We are missing the major grade
 - Am I experiencing life with God?
 - True success is finding the answer to this



Conclusion

- Remember Alison? She is giving an evangelical talk at the health care event
 - What is she going to say?
- Health is important. We all want to be healthy.
 - But health is fleeting. I could die of a massive heart attack tomorrow
- There is also so much to good health
 - The physical, psychological, relational



Conclusion

- Have you considered your spiritual health?
 - All these health questions are interrelated
 - When your relational health is bad it causes your physical health to suffer
 - Like the woman at the well seeking physical health from the well
 - Jesus points out she needed living water, spiritual water that comes from Jesus



Conclusion

- We all have a similar need to be healthy spiritually
 - We can work on our physical health as we are doing today
 - But we also need to work on our spiritual health
 - And that is through Jesus, our living water
- Physical health is important for today
 - Your spiritual health is important for eternity



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