

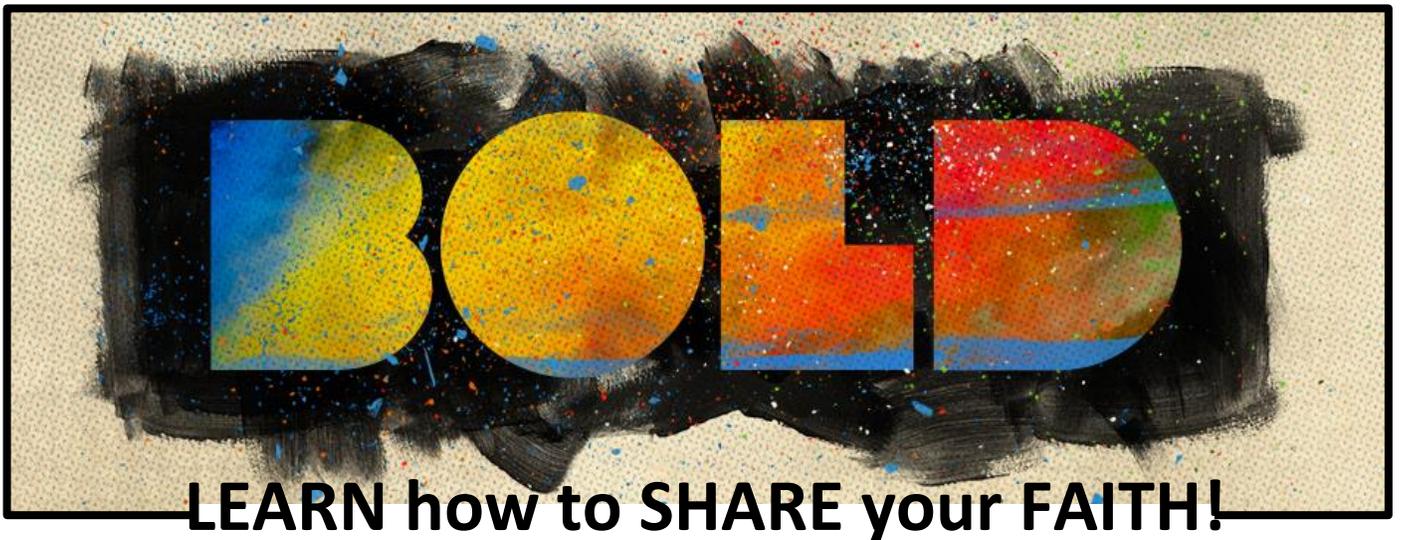
LEARN *HOW TO*
SHARE *YOUR FAITH!*



SUNDAY NIGHTS IN
OCTOBER

6 PM IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

- OCT 2
LEARNING THE ROMANS ROAD
- OCT 16
STARTING THE CONVERSATION
- OCT 23
USING YOUR TESTIMONY
- OCT 30
SHARING THE BEST NEWS EVER



Turning Good Conversations into Gospel Conversations

You Need to Be **Intentional**

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that **winneth** souls is wise. (Proverbs 11:30)*

Winneth = capture, take, fetch, win

Write down the name of people in your circle of influence who need Jesus.

You Need to Be **Rational**

*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we **persuade** men; (2 Corinthians 5:11)*

Persuade = convince (by argument)

You Need to Be **Relational**

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. (Luke 19:5)

“Soul-winning is a conversation, not a presentation.” Mark Cahill

What is something you can do this week to connect with the people you wrote down above relationally?

Moving the Conversation

Learn to ask **observational** questions.

- Look for sports items.
“I noticed you are an Ohio State fan.”
- Look at what they are wearing.
“I noticed the cross on your necklace.”
“What’s the story behind your tattoo?”
- Look for something military.
“Do you know someone in the military?”
- Look for an opportunity to talk to your waitress or waiter.
“We are going to pray for our meal; how can we pray for you?”

Use the **F.O.R.M.** approach

- **Family:** “How long have you lived here? Do you have any kids?”
etc.
- **Occupation:** “What do you do for work?”
- **Religion:** “Do you go to church anywhere? Did you grow up going to church?” “What is your faith background?”
- **Message:** You are moving the conversation to get to the message of the Gospel.

Bridging the Message

Memorize the **transition** question.

The transition question moves you from a good conversation to a gospel conversation.

- “May I ask you a more serious question?”

Memorize a **bridge** question.

The bridge question you choose takes you straight to the Bible to share the Gospel.

- If you were to die today, do you know where you would spend eternity?
- What do you think happens after a person dies?
- Has anyone ever shown you from the Bible how you can know you are going to heaven?
- How do you think a person gets to heaven?
- When a person dies, what do you think is on the other side?
- Do you know for sure you are going to heaven when you die?
- Do you know what God says about sin and how you can have forgiveness?

Giving the Gospel

Memorize the Romans Road and Map Your Bible.

- Romans 3:23 → 6:23a → 5:8 → 6:23b → 10:9 & 13

Stay on task.

When a person asks a question unrelated to the Gospel, say, "Can we come back to that question?... I'd like to show you this verse...."

Share your story.

- How did you come to know Christ?
- How has your life changed?

Always leave a tract.

- Have the gospel tract ready.
- Carry gospel tracts with you.

Ask how you can pray for them.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

1. Use one or two observational questions to create a conversation.
2. Ask the transition question.
3. Ask one of the bridge questions.
4. Share the Romans Road

A. Help them understand they are a sinner. **Romans 3:23**

"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."

B. Show them there is a penalty for their sin. **Romans 6:23**

"For the penalty of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life."

C. Share with them how Jesus paid the penalty of their sin. **Romans 5:8**

"God showed his love toward us, in that, even though we are sinners, Christ died for us."

D. Show them eternal life is a gift they receive by faith. **Romans 6:23**

"but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

E. Invite them to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. **Romans 10:9-10**

*"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" **Romans 10:13** "Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

6 Tips To Help You Start Gospel Conversations

<https://www.toddlollar.com/2018/09/starting-gospel-conversations/>

Anyone who knows me knows I love to meet people. As I have followed Christ over the years, I have realized that the purpose of each encounter I have with people, whether in a coffee shop, grocery store, or gas station, is, as a former mentor, Stanley Ship, told me, is to “put in a good word for Jesus.” Here are six practical tips that help me share Jesus in everyday conversations:



1. **God is the main evangelist.** God saves people; we do not. This powerful truth lifts a heavy undue burden off of us. God is pursuing people with His love. His Holy Spirit is the one who convicts and draws someone to put their faith in Jesus. So, just relax. We have the joy of joining God in what He’s doing.
2. **YOU have a major role!** These semantics are common in certain circles of pop theology like Calvinism today but not in the Bible: “God does not need you.” The truth is God invites us to join Him in the Great **CO**mmission. In fact, Paul clearly and passionately exclaims in Romans: *“How then can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news (Romans 10:14-15)!”*
3. **The Holy Spirit in you empowers you.** God, Himself, the Holy Spirit, lives inside of us. His will is for people to be saved. He speaks for us, and He reminds us of what Jesus says in conversations. Jesus encourages us in our Gospel conversations: “For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you (Matthew 10:20).”
4. **Initiate conversation.** I have never met anyone who does not like for someone to ask how they are. Although we live in a world of connectivity through digital social networks, people often feel disconnected, are more isolated in real life and do not often get asked how they are. This week, step out, even if it’s out of your comfort zone, and ask someone simply, “How are you?” Ask about their lives and their story.
5. **Mention Jesus.** There are many outgoing people. I’m outgoing and could have ten to twenty conversations a day and never mention Jesus. But I would miss out on my God-given purpose when I do not have purposeful conversations centering on Christ. Like my late mentor, Stanley Shipp said: “put a good word in for Jesus”. This might be saying something like, “God has

given us a beautiful day.” Most of the time, if the person is interested in talking about God, they’ll hear my faith and continue to converse about God or ask questions.

6. **Share the Good News.** The purpose of our lives is to spread the Gospel of Jesus. Share why you love Jesus and what Jesus did for you on the cross. In other words, share your story or what I’ve coined, “The Gospel in living color.”

I know by experience that you will walk (or roll, in my case) away from the conversation with deeper faith in Jesus, knowing more about what you have in Him. This is one of my personal verses that inspires me to start Gospel Conversations: *“And I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ” (Philemon 1:6).*

What motivates you to start Gospel conversations with people you just meet? How many we be praying for the ones in your life who you are having Gospel conversations with?

Gospel Conversations

When we were growing up, missionaries would come from time to time to visit our churches. They brought pictures and told stories of faraway people in faraway lands. It all seemed very exotic. It made people think, *I love Jesus, but I’m not sure I want to be a missionary.* Since then we’ve learned that we’re all missionaries to the places where we currently live, work and play. How many in our immediate area have never heard the good news that Jesus died for their sins and was buried and that God raised him from the dead? Who is going to tell them? Every believer needs to see himself or herself as a missionary. In short, we have to redefine the word “missionary” in our churches.

Most people in our churches feel unqualified and ill-prepared to tell people about Jesus. They can list all of the reasons why someone else is better suited for the mission. George Stott, a 19th-century missionary to China, served faithfully despite only having one leg. When asked why he, with only one leg, should think of going to China, his remark was, “I do not see those with two legs going, so I must.”

Imagine if we truly embraced the Great Commission and trained believers to take the Gospel to a broken world in spite of our limitations and inadequacies. Imagine what it would look like if those who sat in the pew on Sunday were intentionally sowing gospel seeds all week. Imagine if the average believer were trained to turn everyday conversations into gospel conversations.

Everyday Conversations

The average person has 27 conversations per day. A recent study revealed that both men and women utter an average of about 16,000 words each day. We can talk about sports, weather, clothes, shoes, movies and TV shows. We're even willing to debate the nuances of politics, the intricacies of health issues or the complexities of national economic matters.

However, when it comes to bringing up the simple Gospel, we shy away. We break out in hives, our palms sweat, our tongues are tied, and we find ourselves talking about everything *but* the Gospel. The idea of injecting Jesus into our conversations causes great anxiety and fear for ordinary believers and pastors alike.

Many believers are afraid that gospel conversations will be confrontational or argumentative. We think we have to be trained for every possible theological perspective we may encounter before we can share the Gospel. We're often overwhelmed by the need to memorize a dozen verses or anxious that someone might ask a question we can't answer. Sadly, sharing the Gospel has lost its simplicity. It doesn't have to be this way.

Consider the natural flow of everyday conversations. Our conversations include laughter, introspection, empathy, and body language. We speak, and we listen. Ultimately, our conversations have an introduction, a general direction, and a conclusion. Our conversations are never completely random or altogether open-ended. People are often looking for us to offer meaningful responses.

When was the last time you had a conversation and the person with whom you were talking shared a problem, issue, or concern? It happens a lot. These interactions are gospel opportunities, and we train people to recognize and seize them.

Here's a message we got recently:

Today I stopped to get coffee, and the guy at the table next to me started a conversation with me, and it happened just like you said. He shared a problem, I asked if I could share something with him, and he said yes. He was so moved by our conversation that he took the napkin I shared the Gospel on and went straight home to share it with his wife. AMAZING.

There you go! An everyday conversation turned into a gospel conversation that ended with a man crossing from death to life. Also, notice his immediate willingness to go and tell someone else. Every day is filled with opportunities like this one that will never again be captured. If we miss them, they're gone. When we're willing to turn conversations to the Gospel, we'll find that the Gospel *is* robust. God is *still* reconciling the world to himself. "Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear" (Isa. 59:1).

Let the Gospel be the filter.

Eddie and Jacob are two young men who were holding each other accountable to share the Gospel intentionally. They had been praying together for open doors and opportunities to do so. One day, while walking through the grocery store, they saw a man and quickly assumed that he probably wouldn't be open to a gospel conversation.

He was a biker type: tattoos, leather vest, ponytail—the whole nine yards. Eddie and Jacob decided they would go ahead and approach the man despite their initial evaluation. To their surprise, he was very open to the Gospel because his wife had been diagnosed with cancer only days earlier. The Gospel gave this man great hope in the midst of his trial, and he repented and believed.

Another church member was sitting in a hospital waiting room with only one other man. The man was somewhat unkempt and seemed irritated and unapproachable. Plus, the man's size was a bit intimidating: he looked fully capable of hurting anyone who bothered him. Our church member prayed for the man and thought about God's arms not being too short to save. Then he mustered up his courage and spoke to the man, saying, "Sir, I know you don't know me, but I'd like to share some good news with you."

The man responded by saying he "sure could use some good news." He came over and sat next to the church member, who shared the Gospel with him using the 3 Circles. The man repented and believed in Jesus right there in that hospital waiting room.

Here's a list of the least-likely people to repent and believe the Gospel:

- Paul, who persecuted the church and killed Christians to stop the spread of the Gospel (Acts 8:1).
- The man possessed by demons (Mark 5:1–15).
- The woman caught in adultery (John 8:1–11).
- The thief on the cross (Luke 23:32–43).

There is often a scriptural paradox regarding those who followed Jesus and those who rejected Him. The people who we think would follow Jesus don't (e.g., religious leaders, those who studied Scripture, rich young rulers, etc.). The people who we think would never come to Jesus do (e.g., tax collectors, thieves, prostitutes, murderers, etc.).

How do we know when someone is ready to hear and genuinely respond to the Gospel? The fact is we really never know what God is doing in someone's heart. We need to have frequent, intentional gospel conversations and then allow the Gospel to be the filter.



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