

Intro: Good morning and welcome everyone! Excited to have you all as part of this Equip class. What a wonderful topic we have to consider today! Evangelism and Service. This lesson will primarily cover the topic of Evangelism. Our church has been uniquely gifted in the service and love to one another categories. The resources and examples in the church (including some of you) are plentiful.

Pray

Common Evangelism scenario - Jonathan, a friend of your disciplee/mentee, has a lot of questions about religions and what makes Christianity different. He was taught evolution in college and now is in the cubicle next to the person you are discipling. What do you tell your disciplee them? What are helpful tools, habits, and practices to provide them? How can you model and define a clear path of how evangelism works?

You see, evangelism makes sense in our heads. An unconverted person needs to hear the Gospel and be saved. But the outworking of that practically can be messy at times. Especially when you're not the one doing the evangelizing but someone you are mentoring.

Personal discipling means intentionally helping others follow Jesus by providing them with personal instruction from God's Word and being a person for them to imitate.

How are we going to accomplish this today?

Definition of Evangelism

Definition - "Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade."

1st - What is the Gospel?

2nd - Who is the Gospel for?

3rd - Why do we share it?

4th - How do we Equip those we disciple to share it?

5th - Service in God's family and to the world around us

My burden for us this morning is that we as disciplers would have a clear understanding of the Gospel, a passion to see people come to faith, and an infectious modeling of evangelism to instill in those we disciple.

1st: What is the Gospel?

We need to know the Gospel. As ironic as it sounds, I am going to share the Gospel with you all so we have an understanding of what it is.

In the beginning God created the world and everything in it. He created it for His glory and purposes. Then at the peak of His creation He specially created man in His own image and likeness. Man had a special relationship with God and was charged to take care of the world God created. But man chose to reject what God had put in place for them, choosing to follow his own purposes and plan. This rejection of what God puts in place is called sin. Sin separates man from God and is reflected anytime a person denies God's Word. Because of this denial punishment was due. This disobedience could not be tolerated by a perfect God. Sin is deserving of death. Eternal death in hell separated from God forever. A perfect God cannot tolerate an attack on his purposes. Ever since then sin, rebellion, and rejection of God has run rampant in the world. You may look at the world and wonder what is wrong. The Bible has the explanation. But the story doesn't end there, God in His mercy and kindness sent His own Son Jesus into the world. Truly God and Truly man to live the perfect life and obey and fulfill all God's Word. More than that Jesus suffered a mistrial and was physically and emotionally tormented by death on a Roman cross. On that cross not only did he experience physical suffering, but far greater on the cross Jesus suffered the full wrath of God for sinners. As if a sinner himself, though perfect He fully took on the weight of judgment for those who rejected

Him. Three days after Jesus died, He rose from the dead to signify that His death and sacrifice was enough. There is only one response to this message. Find forgiveness and restoration in Christ. He will save anyone who comes to Him. You don't have to be under God's wrath any longer. You can trust today in Jesus and have a restored relationship as God intended. Not only that but Jesus is seated ruling in heaven waiting to return and make all things new again with those who believe. Will you believe in Christ today?

Who is the Gospel for?

a. Unbeliever

- i. Romans 1:16 - Every Unbeliever. Jew or Greek. Left or Right Handed. Pro Life or Pro Choice. Religious background. Atheist Background. Nice. Mean. Tall. Short. Everyone is an unbeliever and therefore needs the Gospel
- ii. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
- iii. Points of Warning
 1. Remember their lostness - 2 Corinthians 4:1-4
Therefore, since we have this ministry because we were shown mercy, we do not give up. 2 Instead, we have renounced secret and shameful things, not acting deceitfully or distorting the word of God, but commending ourselves before God to everyone's conscience by an open display of the truth. 3 But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 2. Fight the Temptation to think in externals - Romans 2:28-29 "28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a

matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.
His praise is not from man but from God.”

b. Believer

- i. Philippians 1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
- ii. Even Christians need the Gospel. Often I forget how much I need the Gospel to encourage my soul and monitor my life. Instilling in your disciple the centrality of the Gospel will stick with them forever. It's easy in doctrinally rich contexts like ours to prize the doctrines that have been well defended and stood the test of time. But at the heart of every believer is a simple childlike faith in Christ who saved them from sin. The simplicity and depth of the Gospel is unmatched. Yet the story is so masterfully woven that it would take a lifetime to find the depths of its significance.
- iii. Do you think about the Gospel regularly? Do you remember what the Gospel has done for you?

3rd: Why do we share the Gospel?

Because of Compassion

Because it's Commanded

Because of final Consummation

4th: How do we Equip those we disciple to evangelize?

Instruction and Imitation - What do you teach and show them?

I asked my boss recently if there are statistics on how much better the North Carolina call center is at home vs in-office. Much to my disappointment the in-office stats are drastically better. Why is that? People naturally copy and imitate those around them. As those who disciple others, when we show in practice how to evangelize it sticks with those we disciple.

1. Teach and model to them what it looks like to feed on the gospel continually
2. Teach and model humble love - ^{Matthew 9:35} And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ^spray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
3. Teach them evangelism in community. Leverage the church in teaching your disciple to evangelize. Find someone else who lives an exemplary life of evangelism and bring your disciple around them. Our church is really great at this. Have your disciple bring their non-converted friend to church
4. Teach them to pay close attention to who God has placed in their life
5. Teach them depth > Decisions
6. Teach them that the Lord uses available, not perfect people. Teach them that Faithfulness is what pleases the Lord. The Lord performs conversion.
7. Teach them how to pray for unconverted people. A deep sense of where they are spiritually. The only way that this individual will come to life is through the power of Christ. If you don't understand that as the discipler, you will instill a self-centered evangelism in your disciple.

Our evangelism is much like a rescue boat. It goes up to the titanic everyday and says get in our boat your ship is going to crash. I was once aboard the ship too and I heard. I have been coming back everyday to save others. The boat may look completely secure.

Pastor Michael has been discipling me for 6-7 years and one of my favorite memories is him taking me with him to get his haircut. I'm sitting in the lobby right next as I watched Michael get his haircut. Michael started asking the woman how her day was. Then asked some personal questions. Asked her if she was religious. Then when the questions were flipped on Michael. Michael went right into sharing his testimony of how he was religious growing up but not a Christian and how the Gospel came into his life and saved him. That lady didn't come to faith on the spot but Michael modeled faithfulness.

PRACTICALS

1. GOSPEL IN 3 MINUTES OR LESS
2. Pray the Gospel with them each time you meet
3. Have them read evangelism by Mack Stiles. Or evangelism and the sovereignty of God by JI packer.
4. Have them write out their testimony

SERVICE

Titus 2:11-15

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Service - Teach them by example. Whatever your serving gifts are. Rope them into what they do. My mom would always get me to set the table while preparing to have guests over for Sunday lunch. My dad would ask me questions about conferences they were hosting. So I began to become accustomed to that.

Teach them to teach others to try new things. Most Christians don't try anything because they don't want to mess up.

Teach them how to stretch the disciplee. Some people need a larger nudge. Sometimes they need to be reigned in and pulled back.

Closing: Let's pray for some unconverted people. As a group, let's list some people to pray for. If you ever want to ask for prayer for an unconverted person that you or a disciple, please let me know.