

GO WITNESS

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?



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Gospel App

The gospel is the good news that JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

GOD - God is the Creator and King of the world, so we should obey and follow Him.

SIN - We have all sinned against God, so we are separated from Him and will face His judgment.

JESUS - God in His love sent Jesus, who died to pay the penalty for our sin and rose from the dead.

SALVATION - We can be saved if we trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Trusting in Jesus means we repent of our sin, believe in Him to save us instead of our good works, and receive Him as our Lord and Savior.

DECISION POINT - Everyone needs to come to a decision point where they choose to trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Is there anything that would keep you from trusting in Jesus today? *Example prayer of faith: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I am sorry for going my own way, but I want to follow You. I believe that You died for my sins and rose again from the dead. Please forgive me of all my sins and be my Lord and Savior. Amen.*



Watch the Witnessing
Training Video

WHY SHARE THE GOSPEL?

PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR THE GOSPEL - People will miss out on the life God wants them to live and end up spending eternity separated from Him if they don't hear the gospel and accept Jesus. (John 3:16; Rom. 10:13-14)

JESUS COMMANDED IT - This isn't an option to be considered. It's a commandment to be obeyed. Jesus has given us everything that we need to fulfill that mission. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

IT BRINGS GOD GLORY - When things get hard, we can keep going because our primary goal is to bring glory to God, not to achieve a certain result. (2 Cor. 4:15)

OBEDIENCE IS THE WIN - Jesus is the One who saves, not us! Our job is to simply step out in obedience and seek to share the gospel, trusting that God is going to use that interaction however He wants. (1 Cor. 3:6-7)



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HOW TO WITNESS



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1. PRAY - When we go out witnessing, we want to do it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. START THE CONVERSATION - Starting the conversation can often feel like the hardest part of witnessing.

- **Relax, smile, and ask a question to get started.**

- If it's someone you know, you might say... *"Hey, you know I'm a Christian, but I don't think I've ever asked you what you believe. What are your thoughts about God?"*
- If it's someone you don't know, you might say... *"Hey there. My friends and I love having spiritual conversations and hearing what other people think and believe. Would you mind sharing with me what you think about God?"*
- If you're using a survey, you might say... *"Hi, I'm [name] and I'm part of the [insert name of church or Christian club on campus]. We're going around surveying people about what they believe. Would you mind participating in the survey?"*

- **What to say if someone answers "Yes" vs "No".**

- If they say "No" - Have a pleasant response like, *"No worries, thanks for your time. Would it be ok if I prayed for you real quick?"* If they say no to prayer, then you can just say, *"Ok, hope you have a great day!"*
 - If you know them personally, you can let them know that you are always there if they want to talk about it.
 - That's it! And guess what? That person just had a kind interaction with a Christian, which is a huge win!
- If they say "Yes" - Ask your survey questions or a simple question like, *"Sweet! So what are your thoughts about God?"*
 - Now this is your chance to LISTEN FIRST. Listening is so important! Hear what they have to say and learn about them. The goal of your time isn't to debate, it's to have an honest and loving conversation that points them to the truth of the gospel.
 - After you understand some of what they believe, ask something like, *"Thank you for sharing! Do you mind if I share with you what I think about God?"* Once you get the green light, share the gospel!

3. SHARE THE GOSPEL - Walk through the 5 points of the gospel.

4. FOLLOW UP - You can give them a gospel booklet, a Bible, recommend a local church, point them to decidenow.com, or swap contact info if it's wise and makes sense.



Optional Handouts Below

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WITNESSING MYTHS

Myth: “People don’t want to talk about God.”

- Actually, many people do! Among non-religious teens:
 - Half express moderate interest in what Christianity could mean for their lives. [1]
 - Only 1 in 10 have a hostile view of Jesus. [2]
 - 2 out of 3 would consider coming to church if invited. [2]

Myth: “Witnessing is impersonal and offensive.”

- Actually, talking one-on-one with people about the Lord allows you to care about them individually and also discern what truths of the gospel to personally emphasize with them, just as Jesus did in the New Testament. If we are faithful, obedient, and compassionate to sharing the truth in love, we likely won’t turn people off to God.

Myth: “This person will never get saved.”

- Actually, many people in the Bible would have never been saved if they had been written off: a demon-possessed man (Mark 5:1-20), a woman who sinned greatly (Luke 7:36-50), and even the Apostle Paul, who persecuted Christians. Remember, we cannot save people - that’s God’s job. And nobody is beyond God’s power to save!

Myth: “They’ve already heard the gospel.”

- Actually, some people may have heard bits and pieces of the gospel, but for so many people it can take several encounters with the gospel before they really understand and can make a decision to receive Christ. You have the opportunity to help bring them one step closer to salvation!

Myth: “I won’t know how to answer their questions.”

- Actually, it’s ok to not know the answer to every question. In fact, by saying “I don’t know,” you demonstrate humility and can help defeat negative stereotypes about Christians. Respond by telling them you’d love to research the question and follow up with them to talk about it more.

Myth: “I’m going to fail at witnessing.”

- Here’s the thing, “success” in witnessing is simply being faithful to start the conversation. The hard truth is that many people will reject Jesus. In Mark 4:3-8, Jesus shares an analogy of four kinds of soil we can expect to encounter in someone’s heart: the path, rocky soil, thorny soil, and good soil. Remember, we can’t control if someone accepts Christ, but we can work to give them the opportunity to.

[1] Barna, Over Half of Gen Z Teens Feel Motivated to Learn more About Jesus, February 1, 2023. <https://www.barna.com/research/teens-and-jesus/>

[2] One Hope, Global Youth Culture: United States Report. (One Hope: Global Youth Culture U.S. Report, 2020)

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SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

A Christian's testimony is a person's story about how they came to believe in Jesus and how He has changed their life. When sharing your testimony, talk about these four things:

- **Before Jesus:** Think about what your life looked like before you met Jesus. Were you anxious? What decisions did you make? What did you find your identity in? How were you sinning against God?
- **The Good News of Jesus:** Share about learning the good news of Jesus and briefly explain the five points of the gospel. This gives the listener(s) the life-changing opportunity to hear the good news and be saved!
- **Decision Point:** Share about when you decided to follow Jesus. What led you to repent from your sin, believe in Jesus as your Savior, and decide to fully surrender your life to follow Him?
- **Since Jesus:** Jesus has set you free! Clearly share how the gospel has changed your life. Explain how having a relationship with Jesus has enabled you to live differently, whether your circumstances have changed or not.

Take some time to write out your testimony below: