
P.E.P. TALK

A PERSONAL EVANGELISM PLAN



**NORTH
WAKE
CHURCH**

–2015–

ALWAYS AWARE

UNDERSTANDING OUR MISSION

Who has God called you to reach with His message? The Apostle Paul said in Acts 17 *...that God has determined the time and the place you would live so that men would seek Him.* That means that He has placed you in your family, in your neighborhood, in your job and even with certain interests for the purpose of you being His messenger among people who need to know Him.

You have been given a mission. Paul writes:

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Who are the people who need reconciliation? They are the lost. They are the people around you that you meet everyday. They're your neighbors, friends, coworkers. And you're the one strategically placed in their life to be a minister of reconciliation. It is important that you understand their condition and it's ramifications for your unbelieving friends.

Your unbelieving friends are powerless to help themselves. Their sin stands between them and a personal relationship with God.

THEY ARE DEAD

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Eph. 2:1

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Cor. 4:3-5

THEY ARE ENSNARED

And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. 2 Tim. 2:24-26

THEY FACE JUDGMENT AND ETERNAL LIFE WITHOUT GOD

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:18

Do you see them as He sees them: lost souls headed for a Christ-less eternity? How many of these people would come to the King if someone would just walk along with them to point the Way? Many of these people just need someone to pray for them, care for them and share with them. It could be you! It should be you! You have something to share with EVERY person you meet!

STOP and ask God to enable you to see people around you through His eyes. Ask God to reveal to you the people in your network He is calling you to reach out and witness to.

YOUR MISSION FIELD

IDENTIFYING THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NETWORK OF INFLUENCE

THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW (AND WILL GET TO KNOW)

During the course of a week, you engage with many people. Some of these people are people who you see often (they are your network of close relationships). Still others are people that you rarely see. And some are people that you will never see again.

They all have two things in common: in the economy of God they have great value and they know at least one Christ follower - YOU! These people are your mission field. The question is, how do you make these relationships redemptive? God is leading us out into the mission field, out into the lives of these people. It is vitally important for you to be prepared (as 1 Pet. 3:15 exhorts us to be) to share your faith as God opens doors. Let's think about how to make the most of the brief encounters and the extended ones.

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

Think of the people you see periodically and are uncertain if they know Christ. Do you know their names?

1) Who is the waitress at your favorite restaurant?

2) Who coaches your son or daughter's team?

3) Who cuts your hair?

4) Who is the cashier at the grocery store or convenience store?

5) Who works on your home (plumber, electrician, carpenter, painter)?

6) Who is your car mechanic?

7) Who do you exercise with?

YOUR NETWORK

Think about who are the people that you have the greatest possibility to invest in. They are your closest relationships or the people you see the most often. These people are your network. Your network is the social system built around these four elements: your family members, the people you recreate with, your neighbors, and your coworkers. In the spaces below write the lost friends in your network who fall into each group.

FAMILY MEMBERS:

PLAYERS (RECREATION):

NEIGHBORS

COWORKERS

NARROW YOUR LIST

Which of the people listed meet the following criteria?

- 1. You know them on a first-name basis.
- 2. You have regular contact with them.
- 3. You don't believe they enjoy a personal relationship with God at this point.
- 4. You feel they are responsive to you or open to cultivating a relationship based on common ground.

As you think about the people listed above, consider your common ground (the areas of common interest, backgrounds, experiences, abilities and life situations that you share with these people). Paul describes it this way:

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. 1 Cor 19-23

List at least one person from each category in your network and the common ground you have with them.

FAMILY MEMBERS COMMON GROUND

PLAYERS (RECREATION) COMMON GROUND

NEIGHBORS COMMON GROUND

COWORKERS COMMON GROUND

YOUR PEOPLE GROUP

Pray over the list above, asking God whom He would like you to reach out to? Write that name or names on the line(s) below.

COMMIT TO PRAYER

We must pray. To pray is to declare our dependence on God, while to not pray is to declare our independence from Him. The early church understood that prayer may be the most important aspect of evangelism.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31

Prayer is a strategic weapon in the battle for souls. We call down divine power through prayer. Prayer unleashes God's power into our lives and into the lives of the unbelievers we are praying for. Here are some suggestions of prayers for yourself in preparation for witnessing to your lost friends and some suggestions for prayers for your lost friends.

FOR YOURSELF

- Pray for purity of heart (Ps. 51)
- Pray for the passion of Christ in your own life (Luke 15)
- Pray for opportunities to share your faith (Col. 4:3-6)
- Pray for the wisdom to speak the truth (James 1:5, Col. 1:9-11)

FOR YOUR LOST FRIENDS

- Pray for receptive hearts (Luke 8:5-12)
- Pray for clear understanding about their own sin (John 16:8)
- Pray for the freedom and faith to trust in the Lord (2 Cor. 10:3-4)
- Pray for other witnesses in their lives (Matt. 9:35-38)
- Other scriptures to pray for your lost friends (Luke 24:32, John 20:31, Rom. 10:1, Eph. 1:18, 6:19, 1 Thess. 1:9)

PRAYER TOOLS

1-1-1: 1 FRIEND, 1 MINUTE, 1 O'CLOCK

1-1-1 is a tool to help you pray effectively, fervently, and regularly for one lost friend, coworker, neighbor or relative. It's simple! Commit to pray for them!*

YOU NEED A PRAYER BUDDY

Who will hold you accountable and partner with you to reach out to the person above?

YOUR SMALL GROUP

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OR NEIGHBORS

PRAYER WALKING

Praying onsite with insight! Take a trip through your neighborhood and pray as you go. As you move through your neighborhood, pray for your neighbors by name. Pray according to what you see, know and are led to pray by God. How will you remind yourself to pray for your friends? You could make it 2-2-2 or 3-3-3 or even 12-12-12 if you would like.

*1-1-1 = Praying for 1 friend, for 1 minute, at 1 o'clock.

Ask God for insight into the needs of the lost people around you. Ask Him for a servant's heart and ways to make your life a sweet aroma to your lost friends. Ask Him to reveal to you ways for you to meet some of their needs.

STOP and take a few minutes to pray.

SHOWING YOU CARE

TAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR LOST FRIENDS

A good listener demonstrates a genuine interest. Ask questions to discover who they are. People will be drawn to you if you listen to them. This promotes genuine friendship. Listen to their answers without judgment (see Prov. 18:13). Be patient and courteous (see Prov. 15:1).

People are longing to be a part of community (even if they aren't sure where to find it). People often belong before they believe. Your friendship may be a vital link to their discovery of true community, fellowship and truth. Our mission as followers of Christ is by its very nature incarnate.

Jesus came into the world to reach the world. You are sent into the world to build genuine, authentic relationships with the lost. We demonstrate that we care for the lost because our Savior demonstrated his love for all of mankind through His life and death. Jesus sincerely loved those people in his life who were far from God. He intentionally left the glory of heaven to come for His people. He was always making time to speak with them, feed them, heal them and care for them.

WE SHOULD DO THE SAME

Take a look at the chart on the previous page. Without intentionality, where will you find time to relate to unbelievers? If we aren't

intentional about making interaction with unbelievers, it might never happen. Spend some time answering the questions below.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU HAVE TO ACTIVELY LISTEN TO THEM?

MAKE TIME TO SERVE

Often the need of a friend is the open door that prepares a person to acknowledge their deeper, real need for Christ. What needs do they have? How can you minister to them?

MAKE TIME TO PLAY

What activities (hobbies, sports, etc.) do you share that will provide an opportunity for you to spend regular, quality time with them?

BE READY TO SHARE

TELLING YOUR STORY - YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Everyone loves a great story. It's one of the most effective ways to communicate a concept or idea to another person. And guess what? You've got a great one to tell. Every Christian should be able to point to a time or a period in their own life when they became a Christian. They should be able to tell when and how that happened. Your story (testimony) is a powerful tool (along with prayer and Bible study) to effectively communicate what God has done in your own life. Your personal testimony is powerful, unique, and irrefutable. It is your real life experience. Telling your personal story is one way to lead others to Christ.

This exercise is designed to prepare you to tell your story. As we'll see, every personal testimony has three parts:

1. Your life before Christ.
2. How you met Christ.
3. Your life since you met Christ.

Elaborating on these three parts will provide you with an outline to give your story a clear logical order. If you would like to see this modeled in the Bible, review how the Apostle Paul shared his story in Acts 26.

PART 1 - MY LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

Where were you spiritually before you received Christ? Describe your feelings, your attitudes, your actions and your relationships.*

Part of telling your story will be describing what stirred your interest in spiritual things. This could very well be the point where your friends are at in their spiritual journey and may provide impetus for them to continue.

PART 2 - HOW I MET CHRIST

What caused you to begin considering God/Christ as a solution to your needs?

What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to receive Christ?

Specifically, how did you receive Christ?

PART 3 - MY LIFE SINCE I MET CHRIST

How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ?

What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian?

- As you work on your story, here are several points to ponder:
- Give adequate but precise details.
 - Avoid bragging and negative remarks.
 - Jettison the jargon - use language a nonbeliever can understand. Phrases like "saved," "born again," "redeemed," and "washed in the blood" are all phrases that we hold dear as believers. Unfortunately, your lost friends have little understanding of what they mean. Use phrases or words that they will understand (i.e., "placed my trust," "asked for forgiveness" or "received forgiveness").
 - Relive your testimony as you tell it.
 - Tie your testimony back to the Scriptures when possible but use the Bible carefully. As mentioned above, your lost friends will not understand much of what you understand from the Scriptures. Any passages you quote should have clear meaning.

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

Using the outline you've created above, type or write out your entire story. After you've completed it, read it to your spouse or a Christian friend. Ask them to critique your rough draft. Did you cover the three parts clearly? Did they understand each part? Did you avoid using Christian jargon? Could they relate to it? When you've completed your final draft, go over it and learn it so that you'll be able to share it from memory. Sometimes you will have five minutes, ten minutes, or thirty minutes to share it. Learn to be flexible.

As Paul says in Col. 4, be prepared to make use of every opportunity God provides. If you pray and ask God to provide opportunities to share it, He will do so.

Also, when preparing to share with your friends, think about how you can make your story relate to their life. When you've finished, be ready to issue a challenge to the person you're speaking to. Finish with the question, *"Can you relate to any of this?"* *"Has anything like this ever happened to you?"* and hang on for the ride of your life.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Who will you share with? This week look for opportunities to share your story with people that you will meet along the way. You have identified those people in the Aware section of your PEP Talk. Now take initiative to tell them how Christ has made a difference in your life. List two people below that you will prayerfully attempt to share with. _____

Ask a spouse or a friend to hold you accountable to do so. Who would that be? _____

TELLING HIS STORY - THE GOSPEL

It is vitally important that you be able to share the key parts of the gospel message - His story. This is the ultimate goal of your

preparations - being able to share the great hope that you have within you (1 Pet. 3:15). How confident are you at telling His story? Can you use the Scriptures to explain to your lost friends:

1. What God is like?
2. Why they need a savior?
3. Their sinful condition?
4. How Jesus meets that need by His death and resurrection?

The following information is taken from The Search, a gospel presentation presented by Search Ministries and is used with permission. Learning this gospel presentation or another one like it will give you a clear and concise way to present the truths of the Scriptures.

THE SEARCH*

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?' Matt. 19:16

What does it mean to be a follower of Christ, and how can one know if they are saved? These are some great questions. Let's look at what the Bible has to say about God's position, our condition, His provision, and our decision.*

WHAT IS GOD'S POSITION?

The God who searches is a God of love. His desire is to have a loving relationship with us.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

However, the God who searches is also a God of perfection. His

absolute moral perfection is the standard upon which the relationship is based.

*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Matt. 5:48*

WHAT IS OUR CONDITION?

People are searching! They seek to fill the emptiness in their souls with everything but God.

Those who search must realize three things:

-They fall short of God's standard of perfection.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

-They face God's penalty of eternal separation.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 6:23

-They fail to enjoy God's love.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isa. 59:2

WHAT IS GOD'S PROVISION?

God, in the person of Jesus Christ, took the initiative in searching for us. God substituted Christ's perfection for our imperfection through Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. 1 Pet. 3:18

God satisfied both His love and perfection, thereby making a relationship with Him possible.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

WHAT IS OUR DECISION?

The search for God ends in a choice: to accept or reject Christ's perfect payment for your sins. Accepting God's gifts involves admitting the truth about ourselves, that we have failed to measure up to God's standards, and that we are separated from Him.

For the wages of sin is death (eternal separation), but the (free) gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 6:23

Accepting God's gift involves transferring your trust from yourself to Jesus Christ.

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name.
John 1:12*

CALLING FOR A DECISION.

Are they ready? Hopefully, at the appointed time, you will have opportunity to lead your lost friend into a relationship with Christ. What do you do when they say yes?

**This information is a paraphrase of the tract The Search, published by Search Ministries and is used with permission.*



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