Evangelism #1

Introduction: The Biblical Basis for Evangelism

Seeds in the Old Testament

The Rebellion - Genesis 3: 14-15; 23 (NIV)

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

Call of Abraham Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

God told Abraham to start a great nation for the purpose of being a blessing to all people. Abraham's call would start God's rescue operation to restore all creation.

Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:4-6 (NIV)

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

A perfect representative of the Jewish people would suffer for the sake of others' sins. After he is "pierced" and "cut off from the land of the living," he would "see the light of life."
Renewal of Creation Isaiah 11:6-9 (NIV)

6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Creation would experience complete renewal, and God's rule and authority would extend throughout the entire world.

Emphasis in the New Testament

Calling of the Twelve Mark 1:14-18 (NIV)

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” 16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

Jesus announced that the promises from the Old Testament that God would transform the world were about to come into realization. Therefore, people need to turn from following their own agendas and desires and return to serving God. He then called his first disciples to follow him and become "fishers of men."

Sending of Disciples Matthew 10:1-8 (NIV)

Jesus sent the twelve to proclaim that God's Kingdom was breaking into the world. They were instructed to convey their message through both proclamation and demonstration of its reality.

The Great Commission Matthew 28: 16-20 (NIV)

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus reveals that the mission of the church is to call all people to become Jesus' followers and to teach them to obey all of his commands. He also promised that his power and authority is absolute, and it would go with them on their mission.


8 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.”

The disciples were instructed to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to fill them. Then they were witness to Jesus' message in their local region, then the surrounding region, then throughout the world.

**Holy Spirit sends out Disciples Acts 13:1-3 (NIV)**

Paul was called to witness to gentiles and kings the name of Christ. The term 'name' refers to a sender’s identity and authority. He was also filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Role as Ambassadors 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NIV)**

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

We serve as Jesus' ambassadors in calling people to be reconciled to God and receive a new identity through Christ
Your Role in Evangelism

Recognize God's Activity - John 6:35-40, 60-69 (NIV)

Only God can produce conviction in people's hearts and drawn them to Himself. Look to see who is experiencing conviction from God.

Discern Immediate Purpose - 1 Corinthians 3:6-10 (NIV)

6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.

Pray to determine what people most need in each encounter. Some need to hear evidence for God's existence, or they need to have their assumptions respectfully challenged. Others need to have their views respectfully heard. And, some are ready to hear a full presentation of the Gospel and to receive an invitation to start following Christ. Still others need guidance on how to become fully connected to a Christian community or practical advice on how to move forward in their faith.

Respond to Opportunities Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV)

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Pray for opportunities to talk about your faith. Then, respond to them when they come.
Present and Defend the Faith Acts 17:16-20 (NIV)

You need to prepare yourself to both present and defend the truth of the Christian faith. You should be able to answer common questions and challenges.

Two Minute Miracle

Introduction

When God saves a person, it is a miracle. As we tell of our miracle, we are sharing our testimony of God’s miracle in our lives.

Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

What is a witness? How do we overcome?

Revelation 12:11 (ESV) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV) [B]ut in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

Examples of Testimonies of Miracles:

- The Samaritan Woman John 4:28–30 (ESV)
- The Apostle Paul Acts 22:1–2 (ESV)
- His life before knowing Christ

Acts 22:3–5 (ESV) 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to
prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. 5 From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished."

- **His encounter with Christ**

Acts 22:6–7 (ESV) 6 “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’"

- **His response - Acts 22:8–11 (ESV)**
- **The changes Christ made - Acts 22:12–16 (ESV)**
- **His walk with Christ - Acts 22:17–21 (ESV)**
- **Three Parts to a Salvation Testimony - Acts 22:3-21 (NIV)**

**Pre-conversion (Before Jesus)**
- What false beliefs and sinful actions characterized your life before your surrendered to Jesus, and what were their consequences?
- Be discreet in your description of sin. Don’t glorify your former sinful life, but use it as a bridge to your need for God.
- This part should be no more than thirty seconds.

**Conversion (When you surrendered to Jesus)**
What truths and circumstances brought you to the point of surrendering to and trusting Jesus as your Lord and Savior? How did you respond?
- Be specific here. Describe the truth that impacted you, what repentance looked like for you, and how you put your faith and trust in Jesus. Be real and transparent as you share this.
- This part should be about one minute. **Post- conversion (Since you began following Jesus)**
- How has God’s love and lordship changed your life, and how is it still changing? Give examples of such things as forgiveness, relational reconciliation, a sense of purpose, God's presence, and victory over sin.
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Tips
1. Communicate from your heart as well as your head.
2. Avoid religious words without defining them.
3. Don’t glorify sin and how bad you were before receiving Christ.
4. Don’t criticize other religions.
5. Don’t get sidetracked talking about irrelevant details.
6. Try to identify with your audience.
7. Let people see Christ as Savior, not how good you are.
8. Be considerate of the time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are your greatest obstacles for fulfilling your calling to evangelize the lost?

2. Which of the evangelistic characteristics do you need to grow the most?

HOMEWORK

1. Make sure you go back and read all the scriptures referenced in your notes, especially those that were not printed out.
2. Practice your Two Minute Miracle with someone from class.
3. Download the God Test app to your smart phone.
   Go to [www.thegodtest.org](http://www.thegodtest.org). We will use this in Week 3.