

EVANGELISM WORKSHOP: INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL FORMAT FOR RUNNING WORKSHOP:



(This teaching contains some introductory keys to help Christians to become more effective in sharing their faith with others. It also contains a suggested outline which can be used to help people to run an Evangelism Training Workshop using our Church of Hope teachings.)

INTRODUCTION: I will begin this evangelism training introduction and overview teaching by emphasising two important keys to effectively evangelising the lost. I believe that what the people in the world are looking for in the church is to see God's love and power to heal and liberate people at work in our lives as we share our faith with them.

This course has a great emphasis on both of these two key areas of Christian life and ministry as well as looking at some practical keys to help us to become more effective in sharing our faith with others.

We will now look at some keys that can help Christians to become more effective in leading people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

1) The importance of having God's love and compassion for the lost.

We need to have a GENUINE love and concern for all people and be genuinely interested in the lives of those people that we are witnessing to.

We must never see people as being just another notch in our evangelical belt. People do not care how much we know, but they do want to know how much we care

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

People respond to genuine love and kindness. Having a genuine love for others is a great key to seeing people's hearts being opened to receive the message of the gospel

In the gospel of Matthew we see Jesus' great love and concern for the lost, "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." (**Matthew 9:35-38**)

It is our genuine love for others that will also compel us to share our faith with the people in our world

2) We need to always have a genuine love for other believers (Refer to Topic C in the Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual)

The enemy will continually try and sow strife and discord among Christians, especially those engaged in outreach activities

Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in, "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." (**Matthew 24:10-11**)

OUR GREATEST WITNESS TO THOSE IN THE WORLD IS OUR SINCERE LOVE FOR OTHER BELIEVERS

We all need each other in the body of Christ. People need to see our agape love for other Christians if we are to be credible in the sharing of our faith with others

Jesus Himself said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (**John 13:34-35**)

3) The importance of sacrificially giving of oneself to reach out to the lost

God will at times put on our heart to share our faith with others when it is inconvenient for us to do so. We must always be prepared to share the gospel in season and out of season

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”
(2 Timothy 4:1-2)

The enemy (the Devil), will always try and appeal to our self interests to convince us why it is not convenient for us to go out and to share our faith with others.

His sole purpose is to minimize the scope of those people who will be saved and rescued from the path leading to hell and destruction

This is why we need to continually purposely lay down our lives for the Kingdom Cause

Jesus Himself said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

If we are not sold out for the Kingdom Cause we will invariably be distracted from sharing our faith with others and from pioneering the outreach initiatives that God would put on our heart to do

4) We need to continually grow stronger in our own walk with the Lord and in our devotional life

The more committed we get in sharing our faith with others, the more warfare and temptations we will begin to experience

The enemy does not just sit back and watch his kingdom being plundered and heaven being populated without a fight.

The more active we become in evangelism the more he will try and distract us and oppose us. A big weapon of the enemy is to try and bring discouragement upon us.

For this reason we must become stronger in our own walk with the Lord so that we can continue to glorify God in every area of our life as we share our faith with others

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (**Ephesians 6:10-11**)

We need to continue to make the study of the word of God and prayer a great priority in our life, to help us to continually grow stronger in our faith.

The Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul both shared about the warfare that we will all experience as Christians and especially when we want to serve the Lord

The Apostle Peter wrote, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” (**1 Peter 5:8-9**)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (**2 Timothy 3:12**)

5) We need to invest time to become better equipped and more effective in sharing our faith with others. In the book of Proverbs we read,

“ ... And he who wins souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

Given the eternal significance of winning people to Christ, it is good to spend time learning how to become more effective in sharing our faith AS WE CONTINUE TO DO SO

Memorising key gospel Scriptures is one way of becoming better equipped and more effective in sharing our faith with others

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
(2 Timothy 2:15)

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

Following are some of our Church of Hope teachings that can help us as believers to become more effective in sharing our faith with others. I have handpicked a few of the more important points from these teachings which are the best to initially focus on:

i) Topic A) Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual

Some keys to communicating the gospel more effectively

ii) Some keys to effectively preaching the gospel *teaching*:

Point 3) Understanding humanity, Point 4) Jesus is the answer and Point 6) Asking the Holy Spirit to speak through us before we begin preaching

iii) Some keys to being effective in witnessing to and preaching to others

***teaching*:** Point 2) Some things to consider when approaching people and Point 3) Overcoming fear (2 Timothy 1:7), and

iv) Some keys to help you lead people to Christ *teaching*

6) **The importance of commitment and consistency in sharing our faith with others.**

Without having a commitment to sharing our faith with others, we will squander much of our time and miss many opportunities to help lead people to Christ.

WE NEED TO MAKE EVANGELISM A LIFESTYLE rather than just a weekly or monthly activity

The Lord impressed upon my heart some time ago that the “...exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” plan of God (Ephesians 3:20) for our life unfolds over time, as we are just daily open to living wholeheartedly for Him; That as we daily make an impact in our world for eternity, over the course of our lifetime many people will come to know Christ and be encouraged to fulfil God’s destiny for their own lives.

This can be seen in the faithfulness of Mr. Genor who for many years gave out just 10 tracts every day in George Street in Sydney. Through this simple ministry around 146,000 people worldwide have come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour with some of them eventually entering into full time ministry themselves.

If we simply go by our feelings and make no firm commitments to sharing our faith with others, invariably weeks and months will go by without us encouraging anyone to come to Christ.

We need to be faithful and committed to doing what God puts on our heart to do for Him and in reaching out to others with the gospel message.

What regular outreach initiatives is God maybe putting on your heart to do in this season? A season for evangelism; May I encourage you to wholeheartedly commit to doing what He may be putting on your heart to do.

7) The importance of always having an eternal perspective in the way that we live our lives. As Christians we are to be in this world but not of it.

As Christians our focus needs to be always on looking at storing up treasures in heaven

Jesus Himself said,

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (**Matthew 6:19-21**)

Having an eternal perspective for our life will greatly affect our lifestyle choices and priorities in life and how we plan our weeks and use our time

The abundant life that Jesus spoke of in John 10:10 comes from wholeheartedly living for the Kingdom Cause and keeping our focus on things above

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (**1 Corinthians 15:58**)

8) We need to make our love for Christ our greatest priority in life. Everything flows out of this.

Nothing can ever truly satisfy us like knowing Christ intimately

King David was a man after God’s own heart. He wrote in Psalm 63, “O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” (**Psalm 63:1-3**)

When Christ is our first love it will be reflected in the way that we live our life and what we talk about

If we are more attached to the things of this world than we are focused on the things of God, it will be reflected in the way that we speak to others and share our faith

Jesus Himself said,

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45)

If we are more excited about the rugby results or other things than what Christ has done and is doing in and through our lives, we will no longer really be salt and light in the world

Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in,

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)

We must not allow the cares of this life and the things of this world to steal our affections for the Lord

The Apostle Paul put it this way,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**” (Romans 12:2)

Jesus Himself said,

“‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:30) “‘And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)

It is our love for God that will give us His love and compassion for others and compel us to share our faith with others; in season and out of season

So may I encourage you as we live in a world that is getting more and more lawless, that you would simply come back to a heart of worship and that your greatest desire would be to know Christ intimately in the times that we are now living in!

Jesus Himself said,

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**

Praise and worship was a big part of the early church. We see this in the gospel of Luke where we see the account of Jesus ascending back to Heaven.

“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.” **(Luke 24:50-53)**

Our genuine love for God in the days that we are now living in will truly make us stand out in the world today and help us to lead others to Christ.

We need to be continually filled with all the fullness of God if we are to be truly effective in leading others to Christ

Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **(Matthew 5:16)**

9) We must never lose sight of the fact that our friends and family members will spend all of eternity either with Jesus, or separated from Him in a place called hell

If we truly love those in our world we will pray for God to give us divine appointments (opportunities) to share our faith with others

The Apostle Paul knew the value and significance of every soul to God and of the importance of leading people to faith in Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law, to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

10) The strength that we get from ministering with others.

Being part of an evangelism outreach team helps Christians sharing their faith to overcome discouragement and fear

When we are part of a ministry team we can get encouragement and support from others to help us to become bolder in the sharing of our faith

Forming outreach teams is a great way of ministering into our communities. Jesus Himself sent out His disciples two by two. (Luke 10:1) As Christians we are never meant to be an island to ourselves

It is a lot easier and more fun to evangelise as part of a team than by ourselves when we are reaching out to those in our community.

This is especially the case for people who are naturally shy, or who are new to the faith

Having an outreach teach enables new believers and people new to evangelism to receive encouragement and support as they learn how to actively share their faith with others

11) Just briefly, because these key aspects of sharing our faith are covered extensively in our evangelism training notes:

i) The importance of prayer

In the book of 2 Chronicles we read, “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” **(2 Chronicles 7:14)**

SOME RELATED EVANGELISM WORKSHOP TEACHINGS

- Topic B) Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual – Prayer is the key to seeing revival in our nation
- Some keys to being effective in witnessing to and preaching to others teaching – Point 1

ii) The importance of preaching the pure gospel

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” **(1 Corinthians 15:1-4)**

We must never deviate away from the message of the cross. It is in the preaching of the message of the cross, (preaching Christ crucified and His resurrection) that people are saved

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians 1:17-18)**

RELATED EVANGELISM WORKSHOP TEACHING

Topic E) Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual - Gospel of Grace

iii) The importance of never doubting the power of the gospel to bring salvation and transformation to people’s lives

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” **(Romans 1:16-17)**

In the book of Acts we see the power of the gospel to bring transformation to an entire city

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY.” **(Acts 8:4-8)**

RELATED EVANGELISM WORKSHOP TEACHING

Topic F) Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual - Signs and wonders as we preach the gospel

And

iv) The importance of continually ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit

The Apostle Paul wrote, “I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians 2:3-5)**

Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit in His ministry here on earth. In the book of Acts we read, “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” **(Acts 10:38)**

RELATED EVANGELISM WORKSHOP TEACHING

Topic D) Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual – Kingdom Power (Receiving the Holy Spirit)

AND

12) THE HARVEST TRULY IS RIPE “NOW”

If ever there is a time to share the gospel it is NOW. In a world that is full of strife and broken lives, the gospel is good news to those that hear it. (Romans 10:15)

When we look at the events in the world today it is clear that the time of the rapture is very soon. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18) We need to make the most of every opportunity to share our faith with others NOW while it is still day

Jesus Himself said, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” **(John 4:35)**

I believe that the word for today is GO.

It is time that we all now as believers embrace Jesus’ command to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

In a time of great uncertainty and where we see many broken lives in our community, it is crucial that we are always prepared to share our faith with others wherever God has placed us and called us to go in order to evangelise the lost

Reinherd Bonnke was quoted as saying, "Some Christians wait to evangelize till times seem better. The best time is for the worst times. "Today is the day of salvation". Today is always the most opportune day. The Holy Spirit is never on vacation. Many are always preparing. The best way to prepare for evangelism is to do it. Conferences, seminars, prolonged prayer sessions may be excellent but they often produce only perpetual students, not witnesses, too busy learning how than to actually do it. Turning things over in our mind plows no fields. Jesus was unhurried but always urgent. His word was to preach "while while it day, for the night comes when no one can work..." God bless you."

IN CONCLUSION I will finish with what my mentor Earl Roberts shared in relation to; firstly, how we are to evangelise the lost and secondly what will keep us motivated to keep sharing our faith

1) Three keys to being effective in evangelising the lost are:

i) PRAYER, ii) CARE, and iii) SHARE, AND

2) What will keep us continually motivated to share our faith

i) Knowing God's Attributes (His mercy and great faithfulness)

ii) Ministering continually in the power of the Holy Spirit

iii) Knowing the importance of the Great Commission

iv) Having Christ's heart of compassion for the lost, and

v) Knowing that one day we will be rewarded for our works here on earth

I will finish with the words of Jesus, "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." (Matthew 16:27)

CONCLUDING WORKSHOP TEACHING

Topic I) Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual – John Harper (A true hero of the faith)