

THE "EVANGELISM EXPLOSION" METHOD OF WITNESSING

INTRODUCTION: This is simply one method of presenting key Bible truths so that a person can become a believer. No method is "inspired" but this is a good, thorough way to present the fundamental truths of the gospel so that a person making a decision to receive Christ will be quite likely to make a genuine decision.

TWO KEY INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS:

A. "**IF YOU DIED TODAY, DO YOU KNOW YOU'D GO TO HEAVEN?**" - If they answer "No", then go straight to the gospel presentation given below. If they answer "Yes" then you need to ask them a second question:

B. "**IF YOU WERE TO DIE TODAY AND STAND BEFORE GOD AND HE WAS TO ASK YOU, 'WHY SHOULD I LET YOU INTO MY HEAVEN?', WHAT WOULD YOU TELL GOD?**" This question will reveal what the person you are witnessing to is really trusting in. If they say, "I guess I'd tell God, I kept the ten commandments," or "I guess I'd tell God that I had tried to be kind to my neighbor," or "I'd tell God He should let me in because I tried to do good, was baptized & was a member of the church," etc., then you know they are trusting in their own works (i.e. their own efforts), rather than God's grace to get to heaven. Once they answer, it is helpful to rephrase their answer back to them by saying, "So let me make sure I understand correctly. If you were to stand before God and He was to ask you 'Why should I let you into my heaven' you would tell God, that you tried to be kind to your neighbors, correct?" It's important to get a clear answer to this question, because it shows exactly what a person is really, TRULY trusting in to go to heaven! Once you have gotten a response to this question, you can go on to the presentation of the gospel given below.

1. GRACE - Show them that salvation is an **ABSOLUTELY FREE GIFT that cannot be earned!** - Rom. 6:23

2. GOD - **Ask them to fill in the blank: "God is _____?"** Many will often answer that God is *love*. That of course is true. However point out to them that God is also *holy* & what that means.
1) God is Love - **I Jn. 4:8**
2) But God is also *HOLY* & has sworn to punish sin - **Num. 14:18; Hab. 1:13a**
(**Illustration:** Taking an exam that you must get 100% or you fail!)

3. MAN - **Talk about *Who man is.*** The individual you're witnessing to needs to understand two things:
1) **Man is a sinner** - **Rom. 3:10 & 23**
Sin means to "miss the mark"
(Illustration: Shooting arrows)
2) **He cannot save himself** - **Isa. 64:6** – i.e. even our "good" deeds are like dirty bandages in God's sight!
(**Illustration:** If you commit just 3 sins/day that equals 1000 sins/year x your age)

4. CHRIST - A) **Discuss *Who Jesus Christ is.*** Ask them: "**Who is Jesus Christ?**" "The Son of God," will often be the response. But you need to explain what that means. Most people don't realize that...
1) **He's God!** - **Jn. 1:1-3, 14**
2) **He made the worlds.** – **Col. 1:16-17**
B) Show them: "**What Christ has done.**" i.e. Christ is an "SSS":
1) **Satisfactory** - i.e. acceptable
2) **Substitutionary** - i.e. took the place of someone else - **II Cor. 5:21**
(Illustration: One baseball pitcher taking the place of another one)
3) **Sacrifice** - **Jn. 19:30** – "It is finished" literally means, "PAID IN FULL!"

5. FAITH - **Point out that there is more than one kind of faith!**

1) **Temporal faith** - i.e. faith regarding things on earth.

(**Illustration:** *An unsaved relative praying for a sick friend*)

2) **Saving faith** - Personally repenting & asking Jesus Christ to come inside, become Lord of your life & wash away your sins under His blood. **Lk. 13:3; Jn. 1:12; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9-10, 13**

(**Illustration:** *Do you know the Governor? It's one thing to know **ABOUT** someone, but quite another to actually **KNOW** them!*)

(**Illustration:** Tight-rope walker "Blondin" at Niagara Falls in 1860)

WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED PRESENTING THE ABOVE FIVE POINTS, ask:

"DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT HERE? DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS? IS THERE ANYTHING THAT IS NOT CLEAR?" If there are questions, answer the questions and make sure everything is clearly understood.

If they say they have no questions, or if you have answered them, ask a **FINAL QUESTION**:

"WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE FREE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE RIGHT NOW BY REPENTING OF YOUR SINS & ASKING JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOUR?"

If they say yes, pray with them, leading them with a few words at a time, allowing time for the individual to repeat them to God. *If they say no*, encourage them to think about what you've talked about and let them know you will be praying for them.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

After a person has prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour, you should show them Scriptures dealing with assurance of salvation. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** I believe it is *very UNWISE* to say to a person who has prayed "Now you're saved & are guaranteed of going to heaven." The reason is, we are not God and we cannot see inside a person's heart. Therefore we cannot know for sure whether or not he or she has truly, genuinely *meant it*. **Only God knows whether or not they are truly "born again."** So only *He* can give assurance of salvation (**Rom. 8:16**). If a person has truly trusted Christ, the fruits of that decision will just naturally begin to appear in an individual's life. An apple tree does not have to "work" at producing apples! It is a natural product if a tree is truly an apple tree! It's similar in the life of any person who has truly repented, trusted Christ & been born again!

Some definitive marks of someone who has been "*born of God*" are listed in the book of **I John** i.e. **2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1; 5:4 & 5:18**, and they will begin to be seen. The fruit of the Spirit (**Gal. 5:22-23**), will also naturally start to appear (**II Cor. 5:17**). So instead of *you* telling someone they are "*saved for all eternity*," show them Bible verses on assurance, and **let the Holy Spirit take the Word of God which He authored and give him or her the assurance!** (**Rom. 8:16**)! A couple of excellent verses to use are **I John 5:11-12 & John 6:47**. Others include: **John 1:12; 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; 6:37; Rom. 10:13 & Acts 16:31**.

Compiled by: Rev. Mike Edwards, Baptist Chaplain, Univ. of Goroka, Papua New Guinea, March, 1998. Revised Sept., 2005, St. Vincent, West Indies & Dec., 2017, Madison Ohio. The outline & material is taken from "*Evangelism Explosion*" by the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.