

Let's face it, sometimes the word "evangelism" scares us. Mainly because of what we think evangelism is or what we might have to do to "Be a Light". Generally, people think that they will have to boldly go door to door and convince people to come to Jesus.

But being a light for Jesus, letting our light shine, can be accomplished better as we learn to flow in our own unique personality and giftings. One of the things that we talk to you about at our Newcomers Social is how God can use you and your personality to win people to Jesus. With your personality, background, and life experiences, you can win people to Jesus that my personality can't. But other people may relate more to my personality more than they do to yours. So, you being you and me being me can result in more people coming to know Christ!

God knew what He was doing when He made you. And God wants to use you to be a light!

Last week we saw that we being filled with the Light of Jesus will Shine Like Stars on a dark night! **Philippians 2:14-16 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.**

Our 2022 Theme has been "SHINE" **Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

With our unique personalities, we work together to Shine, to each be those points of light wherever we go or whatever we do. To be a shining star with our own personality style. We see Six Styles of Evangelism in the New Testament. ***The Confrontational Style, Intellectual style, Testimonial Style, Interpersonal Style, Invitational Style, and the Serving Style.***

Shining Star One: **THE CONFRONTATIONAL STYLE**

Biblical Example: Peter

- Peter was a "Ready-Fire-Aim" kind of guy! He spoke His mind with force.
- In Matthew 16:15, Peter declared Jesus was the Son of God and a few verses later he challenged Jesus' stated mission head on!

Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
Matthew 16:21-22 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

- Got out of the boat and walked on water and he cut off the ear of a temple guard.
- All Peter needed was to be convinced he was right, and there was almost no stopping him.
- He was direct and to the point. No wonder God chose Peter to be His spokesperson on the day of Pentecost! To stand us in a place where Jesus had just been crucified a few weeks earlier and declare, "You murdered the Messiah...repent and be baptized!"

Characteristics: Confident / Assertive / Direct

Contemporary Examples: Billy Graham / Greg Laurie (ILL: Old Testament Rob)

Why Confrontational: If the house is on fire be confrontational! If I'm drowning, be confrontational! You must realize that there are some people in your world who won't come to Christ until someone like Peter holds their feet to the fire.

Cautions: Be sure to use tact when confronting people with truth to keep them from becoming unnecessarily offended.

- Speak the truth in love! **Ephesians 4:15** The lost are not your enemies! Truth and Grace.

- Our words should be full of grace and seasoned with salt.

Colossians 4:4-6 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.

On a scale of 1 -10, how Confrontational are you? _____ (0 – Not at all) (10 – Very Confrontational)

Shining Star Two: THE INTELLECTUAL STYLE Biblical Example: Paul

- Now Paul could be confrontational, but the hallmark of his approach was his logical and reasoned presentation of the Gospel message. Point in case the book of Romans.
- Highly educated, trained by one of the best teachers in the land.
- He could argue a point and counter a point like none other.

(Acts 17) The case of the “unknown god.”

- These Philosophers would not have related well to Peter’s approach.
- They needed more than “Just accept it by faith.”

Characteristics: Inquisitive / Analytical / Logical

Contemporary Examples: Josh McDowell / Lee Strobel “A Case for Christ”

Cautions: Do not substitute the Gospel message with giving answers and be careful of becoming argumentative. Avoid foolish arguments!

2 Timothy 2:23-26 Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 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.

On a scale of 1 -10, how Intellectual are you? _____

Shining Star Three: TESTIMONIAL STYLE Biblical Example: Blind Man (John 9)

“All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see.”

The blind man had an experience in his life that was worth talking about!

John 9:24-25 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

25 He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” I’m not getting in a theological debate. All I know is what happened to me.

I used to be this way... I met this man named Jesus... I’m this way now!

Characteristics: Clear communicator / Storyteller / Good listener

Contemporary Examples: Max Lucado / Andy Stanley

Cautions: Beware of talking about yourself but not relating your experience to the other person’s life. You first need to *listen* to them to be able to connect your story to their situation.

- Pray about how many details to give.

On a scale of 1 -10, how Testimonial are you? _____ (0 – Not at al.) (10 – Very Testimonial)

Your Testimony is Your Story

Your friends are interested. Your friends can relate to it. Your story is hard to argue with.

Paul's Story – Acts 26: The Three Handles

Handles	Before Jesus	I Met Jesus	After Jesus
Verses	4 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 23
Concluding Question	"King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?" (Acts 26:27)		
Unifying Theme	Paul's zeal for serving God		

Handle One - Before Christ

Acts 26:4-11 "The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. 5 They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee. 6 And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. 7 This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. 8 Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead? 9 "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.

Handle Two – Conversion

Acts 26:12-18 "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. 14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

15 "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

"'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 16 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Handle Three – AD After Christ

Acts 26:19-23 "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. 20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. 21 That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. 22 But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen — 23 that the Messiah would

suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

OTHER STORY TIPS

THEME: The main point, showing the contrast spiritually before and after Christ.

MIDDLE HANDLE: We need to keep it simple, clear, and repeatable.

CONCLUSION: End with a question or statement that requires a response.

SCRIPTURE: Is there one key verse that really opened your eyes? If not, that’s ok.

LANGUAGE: Avoid religious clichés and “God-talk”.

LENGTH: Be brief and to the point (3-4 minutes).

SEQUENCE: With practice, you can start and end at any one of the handles.

PUTTING OTHERS FIRST: Focus on your friend. Emphasize what relates to their concerns and interests.

**Next Step: I will formulate and be able to tell
“My Story” in 3-4 minutes, in a way that others can relate to.**

DO vs. Done

A natural follow-up to the question: “What’s the difference between religion and Christianity?”

Narrative	Outline
The difference between Religion and Christianity is:	
Religion is spelled “D-O.” It consists of trying to do enough good things to somehow please God, earn His forgiveness, and gain entrance into heaven. This self-effort plan can take on many forms, from trying to be a good, moral person, to becoming an active participant in an organized religion – Christian or otherwise.	Religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is spelled “D-O” • Trying to do enough good things to please God
The problem is we can never know when we have done enough. Even worse, the Bible makes it clear that we can never do enough in Romans 3:23: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Simply put, the “D-O” plan cannot bring us peace with God, or even peace with ourselves.	The Problem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can never know when we have done enough • The Bible says that <i>we can never</i> do enough (Romans 3:23)
Christianity, however, is spelled “D-O-N-E.” In other words, that which we could never <i>do</i> for ourselves, Christ has already <i>done</i> for us. He lived the perfect life we could never live, and He died on the cross to pay for each of our wrongdoings. And now He freely offers us His gift of forgiveness and leadership for our lives.	Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is spelled “D-O-N-E” • Christ did what we could never do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lived the perfect life we could not - Died on the cross to pay for our wrongdoings
But, it’s not enough just to know this; we have to humbly receive what He has done for us. And we do that by asking for His forgiveness and leadership on our lives.	Our Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s not enough just to know this. • We have to receive what He has done for us • By asking for His forgiveness and leadership in our lives
<i>(At this point, ask them a follow-up question like: “Does</i>	Their Response

this make sense to you?” or “What do you think about what I just said?”)

- Does this make sense to you?
- What do you think about what I just said?