

Shining like stars on a dark night and being a light for Jesus can be accomplished better as we learn to flow in our own unique personality and giftings. Your personality, background, and life experiences 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.

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

**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.**

Last Sunday we looked at Three Shining Star styles of evangelism: *The Confrontational Style, Intellectual style, and Testimonial Style.* Today let's discover three more Shing Stars: *The Interpersonal Style, Invitational Style, and The Serving Style.*

**Shining Star Four: INTERPERSONAL STYLE Biblical Example: Levi (Matthew).**

**Luke 5:27-32 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. (Matthew 9:10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples.)**

**30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"**

**31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."** "A Levi Party" is a party with a purpose.

**Characteristics:** Warm personality / Conversational / Friendship oriented (Tending to focus on people and their needs more than on ideas or concepts.)

**Contemporary Examples:** Peggy Moore. My mom. / My mentor, Billy Godwin

**Cautions:** If you have this style you will need to avoid valuing friendship over truth telling. Presenting the Gospel often means challenging a person's whole direction in life, and that can mean causing friction in your relationship.

**On a scale of 1 -10 how interpersonal are you? \_\_\_\_ (0 – Not at all) (10 – Very Interpersonal)**

### ***BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH 1) PEOPLE WE ALREADY KNOW***

Include them in activities we are ALREADY DOING. Organize a "MATTHEW PARTY" (Luke 5:29).

### ***2) PEOPLE WE USED TO KNOW***

Past Schoolmates, Former work associates, Previous neighbors, Friends with whom we've lost touch

### ***3) PEOPLE WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW***

Civic groups, Health clubs, Community organizations, Sports leagues, Strategic Consumerism

### ***POINTS TO REMEMBER***

Pray / Listen / Build on Areas of Common Ground / Mention Spiritual Matters Early

## Relational Evangelism Invest and Invite.

**INVEST** - Invest in at least one person, outside of your family, who is lost.  
Invest yourself. Your time, love, energy, compassion, and resources. Just be their friend.  
**Investing in people starts with caring about people.**

Shining Star Five: INVITATIONAL STYLE Biblical Example: The Woman at the well.

**COME AND SEE** - John 4:28-30 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

John 4:39-42 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.

**Characteristics:** Hospitable / Relational / Persuasive

**Contemporary Examples:** Jay Gronefield. One of the reasons Jay invites is because he was shown the power of an invitation when his life was turned to church and Jesus by a simple invitation. **(VIDEO)**

**Cautions:** Be careful not to always let others do your talking for you. You too, need to **“15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have... I Peter 3:15**

## Relational Evangelism- Invest and Invite.

**INVITE** Invite your lost friends to Church. *“Twenty-five percent of the adults in the United States would go to church if a friend would just invite them.” (George Barna poll)* That means that one in four of your friends would come to church with you if you would just invite them.

- *82% of all unchurched people would attend your church if they were invited to do so.*
- *Only 2% of the church members have invited someone to attend in the last year.*

**On a scale of 1 -10 how Invitational are you? \_\_\_\_\_**

Shining Star Six: SERVING STYLE Biblical Example: Dorcas “Doing good and helping the poor.”

Acts 9:36-42 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); **she was always doing good and helping the poor.** 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room... 39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. 40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

**Characteristics:** Others-centered / Humble / Patient

**Contemporary Examples:** Mother Teresa / Pastor Mike Oglesby / Many in our church.

**Cautions:** Just as “words are no substitute for actions, “actions are no substitute for words.” In Romans 10:14, it is made clear that we must *verbally* tell people about Christ.

**Rom 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (NIV)**

**On a scale of 1 -10 how Serving are you? \_\_\_\_**

**Servant Evangelism (Serve The Boro)** - Servant Evangelism is sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ through practical acts of service and kindness. Intentional acts of kindness open an unbeliever up to the greatest act of kindness of all: the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Servant Evangelism involves two parts: Service (i.e., acts of kindness) and Evangelism.

### **Shining Light On The Gospel Message**

In this series, I've shared several ways to share the gospel of Christ Jesus with others. In week two we talked about “Do Verse Done” and “Sharing Your Story”. Today we've talked about Investing and Inviting and Servant Evangelism. But allow me to share two more quick and easy ways to share the gospel message with others.

**The Bridge** The bridge explains why Jesus had to die on the cross and what it means to be a Christian. Every religion has tried to explain the separation that exists between us and God. In other words, the emptiness or in this case, the chasm that seems to exist between us and God.

Most faiths and most people try to build a bridge from our side in order to reach God; maybe by being a good person, or following rules, good works, going to church, or praying. We think that if we are a good enough person and we do all the right things, we could build a bridge and reach out to God. But what happens is we stumble and we fall. We can't be perfect and that bridge never gets built.

The Bible says—God saw the symptoms caused by our sin. He saw our futile efforts to try to create a bridge from our side and God did something incredible. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and to be our bridge. God sent a bridge that looks like this, (the cross). Instead of making us build a bridge to Him, God built the bridge for us.

**John 5:24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has **crossed over** from death to life.**

See, if we believe in Jesus He, and the work that He did on the cross is what brings us across. Christ came to earth to be our bridge and whoever crosses that bridge will have a relationship with God, live more abundantly, and have eternal life. (You can just jot the bridge illustration down on a napkin when someone asks you what it means to be a Christian.)

**The Morality Ladder** In our minds, we all have a morality ladder. It's a morality ladder by which we judge other people. With everyone you know, you subconsciously or consciously put them on the morality ladder. If they are a good person, you put them near the top. If they are a bad person, you put them near the bottom and you judge them.

Most people view eternity or getting into Heaven the same way. If you are high enough up on the morality ladder, you get into Heaven. If you are too low, you don't get into Heaven.

- What kinds of people, without saying names, would you have at the bottom of the ladder? (Murderers, rapists, robbers, and child molesters.)
- What kinds of people would you put near the top of the ladder? The best people in the world?

(Billy Graham, Mother Theresa, Evangelists, Missionaries.)

- What about the person sitting next to you? Where would you put them? In the middle?
- Where do you put yourself on the morality ladder? Tough question, isn't it?  
80% of Americans believe that they are pretty good and they are good enough to get into Heaven. Most people would say—I'll put myself here in the upper middle.
- But here's the big question—if this is a morality ladder, where do you draw the line between Heaven and hell? **Where is your line for who goes to heaven and who goes to hell?**

The truth—God has already drawn the line and it's at the very top, it's perfection. God says if you are going to earn your way into Heaven by being a good person, you have to be perfect.

Now there is a gap between perfect and where you ranked Billy Graham and Mother Theresa. There is a gap between you and perfection. There is a gap between good enough to earn your way into Heaven and where you are.

How are you going to overcome the gap? Try harder? Go to church more? Quit cussing? Be a better person? That only leads to frustration, we stumble, and we all fall.

The only solution is Jesus Christ. Jesus came to this earth. He died on the cross to cover your gap, and it doesn't matter if you are up here and your gap is smaller, or you are down here and you have a tremendous gap. Jesus died to cover that gap so that you can have eternity in Heaven with God.

**Romans 3:23-24 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

Jesus declares us not guilty, if we trust Jesus to take away our sin.