

Life Group Discussion Guide for Incarnational Lifestyle Rhythms #6

Rhythms that we have discussed so far:

- 1) Prayer is Air – My prayer life determines whether I am able to see what God is doing around me so that I can join him in it.
- 2) Shine Steady - I want the integrity of how I live my life to help point people to Jesus
- 3) Live to Give - Blessing people can be messy – but it’s worth it because it opens up doors.
- 4) Be a Friend – I will look for opportunities to be a friend to people.
- 5) I am a Coach – Disciple-makers come alongside people and help them move forward in faith.

Icebreaker (Goal: to re-connect with each other)

Discussion Questions:

- What would you do if someone in your group shared with you that they had had a dream that made it clear that a good friend who doesn’t know Jesus was going to be approaching you with the question “why should I become a Christian?”

Worship (Goal: to refocus our attention of what God is or has been doing in and around us)

- Where have you seen or experienced God at work this week?

Study & Discuss (Goal: inside out transformation through deeper understanding of truth)

Rhythm #6 – Ready to Share

Lead off Question:

- Describe the most significant spiritual conversation you have had with someone who wasn’t a Christian.

1 Peter 3:15 was referred to earlier reminding us of the importance of being ready to share the Gospel with people. The big idea from that sermon was that we will usually not find ourselves in spiritual conversations with people who don’t know Jesus if we are not really prepared to explain the Gospel.

We talked about “Being Ready” comes down to knowing 3 stories:

1. The life story of the person you are connecting with.
 - Do you think it is hard to find out the “story” of someone?
 - What do you think are the most important things to know about someone?
2. Your own story
 - Have you ever tried to write down your story?
 - What is the hardest thing about writing down your story?

- What do you think are the most important element of your story that people need to hear?
 - *Part I - The summary of what your life was like before you met Jesus. (or before you became fully committed to Jesus)*
 - *Part II - The summary of how you came to the point of committing your life to Jesus.*
 - *Part III - The summary of what difference committing your life to Jesus has made.*

3. God's story

There are many many resources that have and are being developed to help simplify the message of Jesus. Some of the most practical tools are visual ones that we can learn to sketch out on a napkin. Take some time to read over the attached overview on the "1 Verse Evangelism" and then break into pairs and take turns practising sketching it out on some scrap paper.

Reflect... *(goal: to wrestle with what this truth means to me)*

- How much difference does confidence make when it comes to spiritual conversations?
 - How would you rate your confidence right now?
- 0 5 10
 I would not even know where to start I could muddle my way through it I am just waiting for doors to open

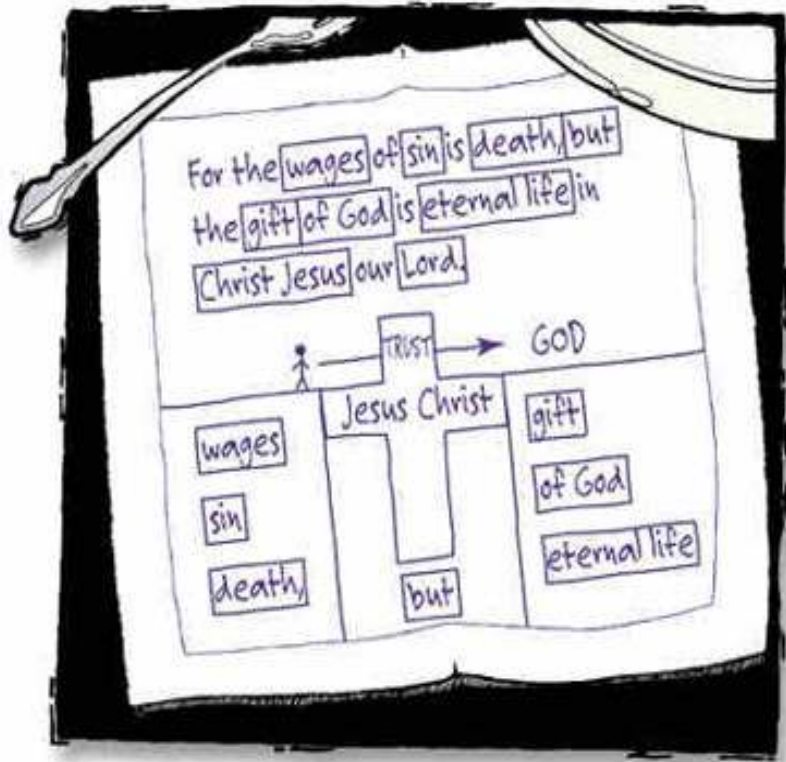
Focus... *(Goal: to summarize what we should be walking away from our discussion with)*

- What is the one most important thing that God has revealed to you through our discussion?
- What is the one most important difference that this discussion should be making in your life this week

ONE-VERSE EVANGELISM

How to Share Christ's Love Conversationally & Visually

By Randy D. Raysbrook



Many people feel that to be effective in evangelism they must memorize a complex illustration and a multitude of verses. But the Gospel is most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and simplicity.

One-Verse Evangelism(r) is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism(r) is also sensitive to peoples' busy schedules because it can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes.

Here's a brief look at how it works. Let's say God's leading you to share the Gospel with your neighbor, Jeff. Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper or a napkin: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NIV). Then put your Bible away. Ask Jeff if he would like to see a simple picture based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with people.

wages

Circle this word and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn wages from God for how we have lived our lives.

sin

Draw a circle around "sin," asking your friend what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or merely excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he says "Yes," add that that's one of the things sin does-it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

death,

Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation.

but

While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in thought is coming. What we have just looked at is bad news; what follows is good news.

gift

Draw a circle around this word. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Remind your friend that someone must purchase every gift.

of God

Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

eternal life

Circle these two words next, and then ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

Christ Jesus

Draw these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that every gift has a giver, and only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

TRUST

Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that friends trust each other, and tell your friend that Jesus wants a trusting friendship with him. All he has to do is admit that he is responsible for the "sin" of either fighting or excluding God from his life. That is what trust means—trusting that Jesus wants to forgive us for rejecting Him from our lives. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people, especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible, perhaps beginning in the gospel of John.

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You may also write to:
Dawson Media, a ministry of The Navigators
P.O. Box 6000
Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6000

Other Resources to Checkout:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCVcSiUUMhY> (James Cheung's "The Big Story")