

FISH

Evangelism Training

We want to encourage you to be intentional in daily, personal evangelism. The acronym FISH provides the basic framework.

F: Build a *friendship*.

I: *Initiate* spiritual conversations.

S: *Share* the gospel.

H: *Help* them make a decision toward Christ.

F: Build a Friendship

“⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

- Colossians 4:5–6 NIV

Building a friendship is simple. God has already brought many people into our lives (family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, baristas, etc.).

- We fail to build new friendships because we either don't see or don't take advantage of the opportunities in front of us.
- Building a friendship has (almost) everything to do with time and intentionality and much less to do with personality.
- Remember, building friendships for the sake of the gospel is not about concentrating all of your effort onto one person, but, instead, making the most of every relationship.

How do you build a friendship? Look for opportunities. This may mean that you have to make changes if your current lifestyle limits or prevents your interaction with non-Christians.

- Pray for God to provide opportunities to develop genuine friendships with non-Christians.

- Be faithful at work and love your neighbors.
- Invite others over for dinner at your house.
- Invite others to do something fun with your friends and small group.
- Ask questions about others' lives, families, jobs, pasts, passions, and dreams.

I: Initiate Spiritual Conversations

“¹⁵... in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

- 1 Peter 3:15–16 NIV

Initiate spiritual conversations. Spiritual conversations rarely form out of thin air; we should all think about the world through the lens of faith so that it's naturally integrated into our speech.

- Spiritual conversations engage our faith with the people and circumstances God has brought into our lives.
- A good conversation is two-sided and informal; the key is asking good questions.

How do you initiate a spiritual conversation? Ask intentional questions to initiate spiritual conversations.

- Pray that others would be open to talking about spiritual things.
- Remember that spiritual conversations are meant to open the door to gospel conversations.
- Be a good listener. Never marginalize someone else's views.
- Examples of questions to ask:
 - What do you believe about God?
 - Do you ever think about why you do that?
 - How do you find the strength/resolve to love others/your spouse/kids?
- Share with others how God is working in an area of your life.

- Use Scripture and share with others how your faith influences the decisions you make.

S: Share the Gospel

“¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures ...”

- 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 ESV

Share the gospel whenever you can and trust God with the results. Always invite someone to respond after hearing the gospel.

- The more we think about the gospel, the more readily we can help others think about it.

How do you share the gospel? You can share the gospel however you want to and through whatever means suits the occasion. The key is to always be ready.

- Pray for your friends to receive the gospel and respond in faith.
- Become familiar with one of the many simple tools of sharing the gospel. We’ve included the bridge tool in our *Groundworks* study (“Witness,” Day 4).
- Always conclude by inviting your friend to make a decision to repent and trust Christ.
- There are many effective tools. Find one you like and use it!

H: Help Them Make a Decision Toward Christ

“⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

- 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 NIV

Help them make a decision toward Christ. Everyone responds to the gospel when they hear it, whether by accepting or rejecting it. Help your friend know what their next step is.

- Every small decision that moves someone toward Christ is significant.
- Helping to clarify what decision has been made is important for identifying someone's next step.

How do you help someone make a decision toward Christ? Some potential next steps are:

- Pray with and for your friend that, whatever decision they make, God would continue to draw them to himself in faith.
- If your friend decides to trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and desires to learn what it means to follow him:
 - Offer to read the Bible and pray with them.
 - Tell them the importance of being involved in a local church and offer to help them find one.
- If your friend decides they are not ready to trust Jesus yet:
 - Continue your spiritual conversations and look for more opportunities to share the gospel.
 - Invite them to begin reading the Bible and meeting with you to discuss what they've read.
 - Invite them to your small group.