

Evangelistic styles

The people I have encountered as the most effective disciple makers in our churches usually don't stick to a program, a presentation or a course but just love Jesus and love people. They have cultivated a relationship in the Lord that just flows out. I have a mature lady who helps run playgroup who is just naturally always testifying to the goodness of God and yet she doesn't even realize she is doing it. Another lady who has the means to live wherever she wants but chooses to live in our caravan park daily prays, "Who are we going to catch Lord, show me who to talk to" and she follows His small whispers and nudges with fantastic results. The more natural and authentic we are the more open others seem to be.

I am a fisherman, love fishing! When I think of my interactions with pre-Christians I can't help but feel I am part of a greater fishing process.

Jean Blasi wrote a book called "Prophetic Fishing" and she describes the adventure so well.

Prophetic fishing springs from the realization that we do not have to work for God to bring others to the kingdom. Instead, we have to get out of the way and let God work through us. It involves getting into the flow of what God is doing and going with it.

Every one of us has the ability to hear His voice and follow His prompts (however they come). Sometimes He urges us to do prophetic acts, to do something radically Christian. Sometimes He gives you a word for a stranger (or most commonly a seeker) which wakes them up to the reality of God. At other times it's simply a prod to phone someone, to say a one liner, to pray with someone. The thing is He wants all of us to go and to speak and that speaking will include the use of Spiritual gifts.

Mark 16:15-17

¹⁵ Then he told them: Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world.

¹⁶ Anyone who believes me and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe me will be condemned. ¹⁷ Everyone who believes me will be able to do wonderful things. By using my name they will force out demons, and they will speak new languages.

At the end of the day Prophetic fishing is the result of supernatural living; a life that is tuned into His presence and voice. We can all do it.

In the Bible there are other styles of evangelism. Probably we use most of these styles to some degree. It's worth giving yourself a score on each style 0-5 with 0 being

Are you wired for this style of evangelism?

Rate yourself 0 – 5 ____

Get a friend to rate you 0 – 5 ____

E Serving Style

While no one is ever won into the kingdom of God without words, many people feel motivated and gifted to serve and speak at the same time. There is a huge amount of evangelism that takes place every week through food banks, op shops, budgeting services, counselling services, home help etc.

Dorcas in Acts chapter 9 was a lady who loved to make clothes for the poor and helping the poor in whatever way she could. Many, many people came into the kingdom because she used humble service and words hand in hand. I guess she must have been like the late Mother Teresa, where her service and her words impacted many. In Dorcas' case her kingdom impact on the community was so great that when she died – they turned around and asked God to raise her from the dead because they needed her so much.

No one should ever think that serving replaces evangelism. When we serve others we still need to use words!

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F Invitational style

In John 4 we read of a woman at a well in Samaria. Jesus had just exercised a 'word of knowledge' over her life and she had begun to grasp who Jesus actually was. So she runs back into her village, knocks on all the doors and invites everyone in town to come and see this man who gets divine revelations from heaven.

When there is a church event or special meeting think;

- Who can I pick up?
- Who can I invite or phone?

People with this style feel comfortable asking others to come and see, come and hear, come and experience.

Statistics show that this is a very effective style of evangelism.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR BIBLE AS A TOOL FOR EVANGELISM

Remember that the Holy Spirit is significantly at work in the hearts of people when they hear the word of God so if you have the opportunity to explain salvation using your Bible get the person you are talking to, to do all the reading out loud. After each passage ask them what they think it means and help them with the answers if necessary.

Romans 3:23

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's Glory

Ask them what they think it means. At the bottom of the page make a note to the next text.

Romans 6:23

Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ask them what they think it means. At the bottom of the page have a reference to the next text.

John 3:16 & 36

God so loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.

Everyone who has faith in the Son has eternal life. But no one who rejects him will ever share in that life and God will be angry with them forever.

Ask them what they think it means and be prepared to give some explanations.

Make a footnote reference to the next text Acts 2:38-39

Peter said "Turn back to God! Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children. It is for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live."

Ask them the question, "What does becoming a Christian look like? / How do we become a Christian once we have worked out who Jesus is and want to follow Him?"

If they believe in the Lord Jesus and want to follow Him, lead them through repentance, baptise them in water and the Holy Spirit asap. Let me or Stephen know they have been baptized and we will support you in a discipleship strategy.