

Session 5: Friendship/Personal Evangelism

Introduction

- **Review**
 - **Session 1 — Hopeful Evangelism**
 - **What is Evangelism?**

“Evangelism is *teaching* the gospel with the aim to persuade.” – Mack Stiles
 - **Session 2 — The Holy Spirit and Prayer**
 - **Session 3 — Getting the Gospel Right!**
 - **Session 4 — “Walk-Up” Evangelism**
 - **Session 5 — Friendship/Personal Evangelism**
 - **Personal Evangelism for the everyday Christians, not just the “Pro’s”**

- **Session 5 Introduction: Church Evangelism vs. Personal Evangelism**

We face two problems:

1. **The reputation of the Church**
2. **The reputation of the individual Christian**

Two opportunities for us:

1. **Personal evangelism**
2. **Evangelism as a discipline**

*“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the **evangelists**, the pastors and teachers, **to equip his people** for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV*

2 practical tips to be more intentional in personal evangelism:

1. Tip #1: Merge Your Universes

I. The Power of Community

Plausibility Structures have 3 main sources:

- i. Community
- ii. Experiences
- iii. Facts, Evidence, and Data

Here are 3 factors that point to the **power of community**:

- i. Community is the most powerful force that **determines belief**.
- ii. Community shapes the way we **interpret our experiences**.
- iii. Community shapes the way we **interpret facts, evidence, and data**.

II. Community and Evangelism

III. Making Friends in Today's World

3 different levels of friendship:

- i. Our tribe
- ii. Our network
- iii. Our inner circle

Here are 2 easy ways to make friends:

- i. Be a good neighbor
- ii. Matchmake your friends

“Flipping The Sequence”

Belonging > Behavior > Belief

2. Tip #2: Coffee, Dinner, Gospel

Coffee > Dinner > Gospel

Three layers to a conversation:

Interests > Values > Worldviews

- i. Coffee: The *Interests* Layer
- ii. Dinner: The *Values* Layer
- iii. Gospel: The *Worldviews* Layer

“But 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,” 1 Peter 3:15 NIV

Conclusion: Evangelism Happens When We Least Expect It

Chan, Sam. *How To Talk About Jesus (Without Being That Guy)*