

# THE HEART AND CULTURE OF EVANGELISM

Presented by Charles Wagner First Presbyterian Church Northshore

Spring 2025

### **OUR SCHEDULE**

- May 4 Evangelism and Our Culture
- May 11 Evangelism and Our Church
- May 18 Evangelism and The Believer
- June 1 Evangelism and You

# MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> -EVANGELISM AND OUR CULTURE



- What is Evangelism?
  - Evangelism is derived from the Greek word for "good news".
- Why is the Gospel Considered Good News?

- Good News
  - 1. Salvation from Sin.
    - Romans 3:23 All have sinned.
    - Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death.
    - 1 Timothy 1:15 Christ came to save sinners.
  - 2. Reconciles us to the Lord God Almighty.
    - Isaiah 59:2 Separated us from God.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:19 Reconciled us to God.
  - 3. Gives Us Eternal Life.
    - John 3:16 Salvation through faith in Jesus.
    - John 11:25 Life after death.
    - Revelation 21:4 All suffering passed away.

- Good News (Continued)
  - 4. It is a Free Gift.
    - Christianity is the only faith where God does all the work on our behalf.
    - The futility of works.
      - The ocean metaphor
      - When good works are evil.
      - Christ alone gets the credit.
    - Ephesians 2:8-9 No one can boast
  - 5. Illustrates God's Love.
    - Romans 5:8 While sinners, Christ died for us.
    - 1 John 3:1 Called children of God.

- Good News (Continued)
  - 6. The Gospel Transforms Lives.
    - The incredible hope of healing, deliverance, renewal, peace, and joy through the gospel.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:17 New creation. The old has gone.
  - 7. The Gospel Brings Purpose to Our Lives.
    - Matthew 6:33 Seek first His Kingdom and receive spiritual blessings.
    - Mark 12:30-31 Love God and your neighbor.
    - Acts 1:8 Witnesses of the gospel.
    - Ephesians 2:10 Called to do good works.
    - Philippians 1:6 God will finish the good works He has called us to do.
    - Titus 2:14 Redeem us and purify us, His own people.
  - 8. The Gospel Is For Everyone.
    - Romans 10:13 Everyone who calls on Jesus will be saved.

- Good News (Continued)
- Evangelism is the act of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others.
- We are an unnegotiable essential to God's plan of salvation for our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
  - Matthew 28:19-20 God will be with us as we make disciples both close to home and far away.
  - Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel.
  - Romans 10:14-17- How can people believe if no one has told them about Jesus?

#### MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> - EVANGELISM AND OUR CULTURE

• Evidence Our World Needs to Hear the Good News

#### 1. A culture in moral and spiritual crisis.

- $\circ~$  Confusion derived from the loss of truth
  - What is truth?
  - Who am I?
  - How am I supposed to act?
- $\circ$  Breakdown of institutions
  - Decline of church
  - Decline of family
  - Decline of law and order
  - Decline of education
  - Societal division

- Evidence Our World Needs to Hear the Good News (Continued)
  - Increased mental illness
    - A 2024 poll by the American Psychiatric Association revealed that 43% of U.S. adults felt more anxious than the previous year.
    - A survey indicated that 62% of Gen Z and millennials feel in a constant state of worry, compared to 38% of older generations.
    - Approximately 20% of U.S. teens report symptoms of anxiety or depression.
    - Between 2014 and 2024, the suicide rate for individuals aged 10-24 increased by 56%, with Black youth experiencing a 78% rise.
    - Men are commonly affected by depression, anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, ADHD, and conduct disorders.
    - Approximately 19.1 million women aged 19 to 54 experience anxiety disorders, highlighting a significant gender disparity in mental health challenges

- Evidence Our World Needs to Hear the Good News (Continued)
- 2. The World's Answers to These Problems Are Futile.
  - o Self-help
    - One-size-fits-all advice doesn't address the uniqueness of the individual.
    - People gather techniques but don't take the actions to change their lives.
    - Only God can change a person's heart. Ezekiel 36:26, John 15:5
      - Old habits and addictions are hard to break.
    - Worldly achievements do not offer lasting peace, joy, and contentment. Matthew 6:33
    - No community. Ephesians 4:9-10
  - $\circ~$  Success, wealth, power, fame, influence, and pleasure are meaningless.
    - Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 Everything is meaningless.
    - Ecclesiastes 5:10 Never ever satisfied.
    - Matthew 6:19-20 Treasures on earth vs. treasures in heaven
    - Mark 8:36 Gain the world but lose the soul.

• Philosophies

- Existentialism and humanism (we are in control of our lives) deny the power of God in our lives that we can't live without.
- Hedonism exacerbates the true reason people feel miserable their sin separates them from God.
- Materialism never satisfies.
- Nihilism, which holds that life is without inherent meaning, leads many to a sense of hopelessness.
- Positive thinking or cognitive behavioral techniques don't address the deeper issues of sin, guilt, and the need for redemption

• False Religions

- No atonement for sin.
  - Islam Jesus didn't bear the burden of human sin on the cross.
- No guarantee of "making it"
  - Buddhism Nirvana might be achieved if you practice the Eightfold Path but it is not guaranteed.
  - Judaism it seems impossible to perfectly follow God's law
  - Islam Allah might think our life was good enough, but we can't be sure.
  - Hinduism Perpetual karma and reincarnation does not guarantee eventual Moksha.

• Politics

- A political movement is always temporary. Someone else will come into office in the future and reverse the thing you enjoy today.
  - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)
  - "My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)
- A political movement is often divisive. Conflict, polarization, tension.
  - "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." (Ephesians 2:14)
  - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

• Politics

- Politicians cannot change the human heart.
  - "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)
  - "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)
  - "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3)
  - "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

• Politics

- Politicians offer nothing regarding life after death.
  - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)
  - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)
  - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2)
  - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Summary

- 1. We have the only answer to sin and brokenness. No amount of human effort, government policy, or self-improvement can solve the problem of sin. Crime, violence, injustice, and hatred all stem from a deeper issue—the sinful nature of mankind. The gospel is the only solution because:
  - Jesus alone has **paid the penalty** for sin through His death on the cross (Romans 5:8).
  - He offers **forgiveness and transformation** through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17).
  - Only in Christ can people experience true freedom from sin's power (John 8:36).
  - o John 10:10
  - Galatians 2:20

Summary (Continued)

- 2. The gospel is the only hope for societal and cultural healing. Our culture is increasingly divided—politically, racially, and socially. The gospel transcends these divisions and unites people from all backgrounds under one identity: children of God. It teaches:
  - Love for God and neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39).
  - Reconciliation between different races and cultures (Ephesians 2:14-16).
  - Humility, kindness, and selflessness over pride and selfish ambition (Philippians 2:3-4).

Summary (Continued)

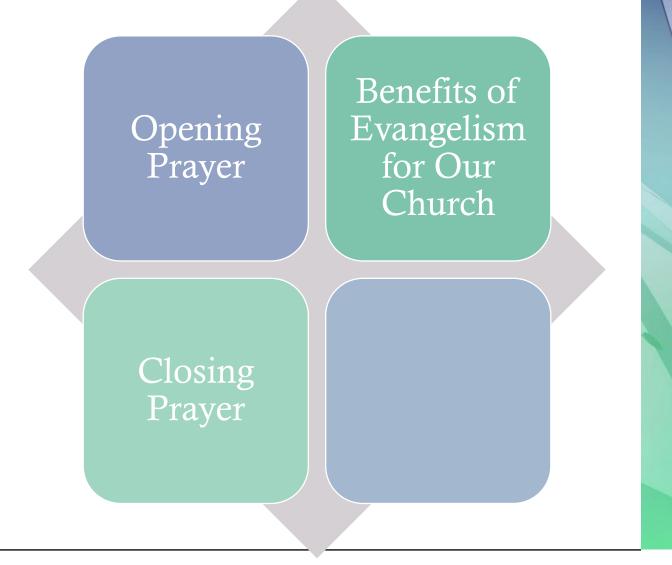
- 3. The urgency of eternal destiny. Many people live as though this life is all there is, yet the Bible makes it clear that eternity is at stake. The gospel is urgent because:
  - Every person will one day stand before God (Hebrews 9:27).
  - There is only one way to be saved—through Jesus Christ (John 14:6).
  - Hell is real, but God offers salvation to all who believe (Romans 10:9).
  - If we love people, we must share the gospel so they have the opportunity to choose eternal life.

Next Week

• Evangelism is Good for FPC

Closing Prayer

# MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> -EVANGELISM AND OUR CHURCH



Review Last Class

- Evangelism is good for the culture, the church, and you.
- The world is in desperate need of the gospel.
- All other solutions do not save.

Core Message

• A culture of evangelism is **critical** for the health, growth, and effectiveness of a church. It ensures that the church remains **mission-focused**, spiritually vibrant, and deeply connected to the community.

Benefits of Evangelism for a Church

1. Aligns With Jesus Mission. Jesus made it clear that evangelism is at the heart of His mission. Before ascending to heaven, He commanded His disciples:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

A church that prioritizes evangelism is one that is aligned with the **Great Commission**, fulfilling its God-given purpose rather than just existing for its own sake.

2. It Produces Spiritual Growth and Maturity. A culture of evangelism encourages believers to:

- **Deepen their faith** as they learn to articulate the gospel clearly.
- **Rely on the Holy Spirit** for boldness and wisdom.
- **Grow in obedience** by practicing what Jesus commanded.

Sharing the gospel regularly **strengthens the spiritual maturity** of the congregation, preventing spiritual stagnation and complacency.

- **3.** It Strengthens the Church's Community and Fellowship. When evangelism is a shared value, church members:
  - Pray together for the lost.
  - Support and encourage one another in outreach efforts.
  - Experience greater unity through a common mission.

This fosters a **stronger sense of community** and a deeper connection among members, as they work together for the advancement of God's kingdom.

- **4.** It Leads to Numerical Growth. Evangelism naturally results in new believers coming to faith, which brings:
  - Growth in church attendance.
  - More people being discipled.
  - Increased involvement in church ministries.
  - A church that reaches out consistently will welcome **new souls** into its congregation, preventing stagnation or decline.

5. It Creates a Culture of Joy and Encouragement. There is nothing more exciting in a church than seeing lives transformed by the power of the gospel. Jesus said:

"There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

When members witness people coming to Christ, their faith is strengthened, their joy increases, and the entire church experiences **spiritual renewal**.

- 6. It Keeps the Church Outward-Focused. Without a focus on evangelism, churches can become inward-focused, concerned only with maintaining programs and traditions. Evangelism prevents:
  - **Spiritual stagnation** Keeps the church actively engaged in its mission.
  - **Cliques and exclusivity** Encourages openness to new people.
  - A consumer mindset Reminds members that the church exists to serve, not just to be served.

By maintaining an outward focus, the church remains **mission-driven and impactful**.

- 7. It Equips Members to Be Confident Witnesses in Daily Life. When evangelism is part of church culture, members:
  - Become more confident in sharing their faith at work, school, and in social settings.
  - See evangelism as a **natural part of life**, not just a special event.
  - Develop **boldness** in standing for Christ in an increasingly secular culture.

This **discipleship-oriented approach** ensures that evangelism is not just the responsibility of pastors but of every believer.

- **8.** It Brings God's Blessing and Presence. God is pleased when His people share the gospel. Jesus promised:
  - "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

A church that faithfully engages in evangelism will experience:

- **God's presence** in a unique way.
- **His provision** for its needs.
- Spiritual revival and renewal as lives are transformed.

- 9. It helps the church engage with the community. A church focused on evangelism:
  - **Builds relationships** with non-believers.
  - Serves the community in meaningful ways.
  - Becomes a beacon of hope to those in need.

This strengthens the church's reputation and influence, making it a place where people **know they can encounter Christ**.

10. It Prepares the Church for Future Challenges. A strong culture of evangelism:

- · Helps churches withstand cultural shifts that oppose Christianity.
- Ensures that future generations are raised to value evangelism.
- Builds a resilient and mission-focused congregation.

By training members in evangelism, churches prepare to **stand firm in faith**, even in difficult times.

#### Summary

A church without evangelism is like a **lamp without light**—it loses its purpose. When a church cultivates a culture of evangelism, it:

- Grows spiritually and numerically.
- Fulfills its mission.
- Experiences joy and unity.
- Impacts its community.
- Remains vibrant and relevant.

A culture of evangelism is not an option—it is essential for a thriving, God-honoring church.

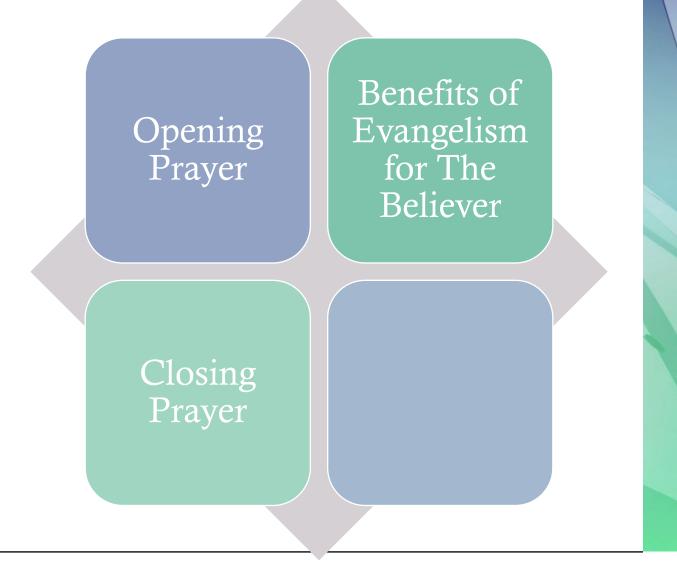
#### MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> - EVANGELISM AND THE CHURCH

Next Week

• Evangelism is Good for the Believer

Closing Prayer

## MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> -EVANGELISM AND THE BELIEVER



### Review Our Classes So far

### May 4th

- We have the only answer to sin and brokenness in our culture.
- The gospel is the only hope for societal and cultural healing.
- The urgency of eternal destiny.

### May 11th

A church committed to evangelism:

- Grows spiritually and numerically.
- Fulfills its mission.
- Experiences joy and unity.
- Impacts its community.
- Remains vibrant and relevant.

Core Message

• A heart for evangelism is essential for every believer in Jesus Christ because it deepens faith, strengthens obedience, and aligns with God's mission. It not only benefits others who hear the gospel but also transforms the believer in profound ways.

Why is evangelism good for the believer?

1. It Strengthens Your Relationship with God. Evangelism is not just about telling others about Jesus—it requires dependence on God's power and a deepening of your own faith. When you share the gospel, you:

- Grow in prayer You pray more for the lost and seek God's guidance.
- Rely on the Holy Spirit You learn to trust God for boldness and wisdom (Acts 1:8).
- Experience God's presence Jesus promised to be with those who share His message (Matthew 28:20).

As you step out in faith, your personal relationship with God becomes **stronger and more vibrant**.

- **2. It Deepens Your Understanding of the Gospel.** Explaining the gospel to others forces you to understand it more deeply yourself. When you evangelize, you:
- Clarify what you believe You learn how to articulate your faith in a clear, compelling way.
- Answer questions Engaging with skeptics and seekers sharpens your understanding of Scripture.
- **Discover new insights** As you study the Bible to prepare for evangelism, you grow in your own knowledge.

This helps you stand firm in your faith and avoid being shaken by doubt or deception.

- **3. It Builds Boldness and Courage.** Many believers struggle with fear when it comes to sharing their faith. However, the more you step out in evangelism, the more **confidence and boldness** you develop. Evangelism:
- Breaks the fear of rejection because you trust in **God's power, not human approval** (Galatians 1:10).
- Strengthens your faith by proving that **God is with you** when you speak about Him.
- Teaches you to be **unashamed of the gospel**, as Paul encourages in Romans 1:16.

The more you evangelize, the stronger and bolder you become in standing for Christ.

4. It Increases Your Joy. There is great joy in seeing someone come to faith in Jesus! Jesus said:

"There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

When you share the gospel and witness someone turn to Christ:

- You experience the thrill of seeing a life transformed.
- You share in **the joy of heaven** over lost souls being saved.
- You find greater purpose in your Christian walk.

Evangelism fuels your passion for God and keeps your faith exciting and alive.

5. It Strengthens Your Obedience to Jesus

Jesus **commands** all believers to share the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20). Having a heart for evangelism helps you:

- Live in obedience You follow Christ's direct call to make disciples.
- Overcome apathy You realize that sharing your faith is a responsibility, not an option.
- Experience God's blessing Obedience brings spiritual rewards and deeper intimacy with Christ (John 14:23).
- When you engage in evangelism, you **live out your faith actively** rather than just passively attending church.

6. It Helps You See the World Through God's Eyes. A heart for evangelism aligns your perspective with God's heart. You begin to:

- See people not as strangers, but as **souls in need of Christ**.
- Develop a **burden for the lost**, just as Jesus had compassion for the crowds (Matthew 9:36).
- Become less self-focused and more concerned with eternal matters.

This shift in perspective helps you **live with greater purpose** and keeps you from being caught up in worldly distractions.

### 7. It Leads to Greater Spiritual Growth

Evangelism is a powerful catalyst for personal spiritual growth because it:

- Pushes you out of your **comfort zone**.
- Teaches you to **trust in God's power** rather than your own abilities.
- Strengthens your reliance on Scripture for wisdom and guidance.
- The more you engage in evangelism, the more **spiritually mature** you become.

#### MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> - EVANGELISM AND THE BELIEVER

### Why is evangelism good for the believer? (Continued)

### 8. It Equips You to Defend Your Faith

Evangelism often involves answering difficult questions or responding to objections. This helps you:

- Develop a stronger **biblical foundation**.
- Learn **apologetics** (defending the faith with reason and Scripture).
- Become more **confident** in what you believe and why.
- You'll find yourself more prepared to stand firm in a world that increasingly challenges Christianity.

## 9. It Helps You Overcome Spiritual Laziness.

Many Christians struggle with complacency in their faith. Evangelism keeps you:

- Engaged in the mission of God rather than becoming spiritually passive.
- Dependent on God's strength, keeping your faith active and growing.
- Motivated to seek the lost, rather than just attending church out of routine.

A heart for evangelism prevents you from becoming spiritually stagnant.

**10.It Brings Eternal Rewards.** Sharing the gospel isn't just important for life on earth—it has **eternal consequences**. Jesus said:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (Matthew 6:19-20)

When you evangelize, you:

- Store up **heavenly rewards** for faithful service.
- Make an **eternal impact** by leading others to salvation.
- Will one day hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

Living with an evangelistic heart ensures that your life counts for eternity.

### Summary

A heart for evangelism is not just about benefiting others—it is **God's way of blessing you** with a stronger faith, deeper joy, and a greater sense of purpose:

- Strengthens your walk with God.
- Deepens your knowledge of Scripture.
- Builds boldness and courage.
- Increases joy and spiritual fulfillment. Helps you grow in obedience and maturity.

Evangelism is not a burden—it's **a privilege**. When you share the gospel, you are joining in **God's** redemptive mission, experiencing His presence, and living a life of eternal significance.

Next Week

• Evangelism and You

Closing Prayer

# JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> -EVANGELISM AND YOU



### Review Our Classes So far

## May 4th

- We have the only answer to sin and brokenness in our culture.
- The gospel is the only hope for societal and cultural healing.
- The urgency of eternal destiny.

## May 11th

A church committed to evangelism:

- Grows spiritually and numerically.
- Fulfills its mission.
- Experiences joy and unity.
- Impacts its community.
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## May 18th

- Strengthens your walk with God.
- Deepens your knowledge of Scripture.
- Builds boldness and courage.
- Increases joy and spiritual fulfillment. Helps you grow in obedience and maturity.

Core Message

• There are many ways a believer in Jesus Christ can be evangelistic. Evangelism is not limited to preaching or street witnessing—it can take many forms depending on a person's gifts, opportunities, and calling.

## 10 Ways You Can Be An Evangelist

- 1. **Personal One-on-One Evangelism.** This is the most direct form of evangelism, where you share the gospel through personal conversations with friends, family, co-workers, or strangers. It includes:
  - **Casual conversations** Bringing up faith naturally in everyday discussions.
  - Intentional witnessing Going out with the specific purpose of sharing the gospel.
  - Lifestyle evangelism Living in a way that attracts people to Jesus and creates opportunities to share.

**Scripture:** "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15)

**2. Relational Evangelism (Friendship Evangelism).** Building deep relationships with non-believers and letting your faith naturally flow into those relationships.

- Being a consistent, godly friend.
- Inviting them to church or Bible studies.
- Answering their questions about faith over time.

- Regularly meeting with a non-believing friend, showing Christ's love, and eventually inviting them to church.
- Hosting a dinner where faith is discussed naturally.
- Scripture: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

- **3. Testimonial Evangelism**. Sharing your personal testimony of how Jesus changed your life. This is a powerful way to evangelize because people relate to personal experiences.
  - **Keep it simple** What was your life before Christ? How did you meet Him? How has He changed you?
  - Be honest and real Authenticity is key.
  - Use it as a bridge to share the gospel message.

**Scripture:** "*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.*" (Revelation 12:11)



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**4. Digital and Social Media Evangelism.** In today's world, social media and digital platforms provide huge opportunities for evangelism.

- Posting Bible verses, Christian quotes, or personal testimonies.
- Creating YouTube videos, podcasts, or blogs about faith.
- Sharing the gospel through private messages or group discussions.

**Scripture:** "Proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." (Psalm 96:2-3)

**5.** Church-Initiated Evangelism (Invitational Evangelism). Not everyone feels comfortable sharing the gospel verbally, but inviting people to church is a powerful form of evangelism.

- Invite people to Sunday services, Bible studies, or special church events.
- Encourage them to join a small group.
- Follow up with them and answer their questions.

Example:

- Bringing a neighbor to a Christmas service where the gospel is preached.
- Inviting a co-worker to a men's or women's Bible study.

Scripture: "Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!" (Psalm 66:5)

**6. Street Evangelism & Public Preaching.** For those who are bold and gifted in public speaking, street evangelism and open-air preaching can be very effective.

- **Passing out gospel tracts** or engaging people in conversation.
- Preaching in public spaces like parks, universities, or city streets.
- Using creative methods like drama, music, or spoken word.

- Sharing the gospel at a bus stop with a stranger.
- Publicly preaching at a college campus or in a city square.
- Scripture: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15)

- 7. Evangelism Through Acts of Service. Sometimes, actions speak louder than words. Serving others can open doors for evangelism.
- Helping those in need (feeding the homeless, assisting widows and orphans).
- Volunteering in community projects with the goal of sharing Jesus.
- Using your job or skills to serve and witness.

Example:

- Providing meals to struggling families and praying for them.
- Volunteering at a crisis pregnancy center and sharing the gospel with clients.

Scripture: "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

**8. Tract and Literature Evangelism.** Using Christian **pamphlets, books, and tracts** to spread the gospel.

- Leaving gospel tracts in public places (restaurants, coffee shops, hotels).
- Giving out Bibles or Christian books to seekers.
- Mailing evangelistic materials to people.

- Leaving a tract with a tip at a restaurant.
- Giving a Bible to a co-worker who is curious about Christianity.
- Scripture: "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." (Psalm 68:11)

9. Workplace & School Evangelism. Your workplace or school is one of the best mission fields.

- Living out your faith with integrity and kindness.
- Being open about your faith when conversations arise.
- Starting a Bible study or prayer group at work or school.

- Offering to pray for a co-worker going through a difficult time.
- Talking about your faith when asked what you did over the weekend.
- Scripture: "Work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." (Colossians 3:23)

**10.Missionary Evangelism (Global Missions).** For those called to international missions, evangelism takes the form of **going to the nations**.

- Short-term mission trips Evangelizing in different cultural contexts.
- Long-term missions Planting churches and discipling new believers.
- Supporting missionaries financially and in prayer.

- Traveling to a foreign country to help with church planting.
- Supporting missionaries through your local church.
- **Scripture:** "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession." (Psalm 2:8)

### Summary

Evangelism is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Every believer has unique gifts and opportunities to share the gospel in different ways. What matters is that we share the gospel however we can. Jesus commanded us to make disciples, and there are countless ways to do it!

Which one of these methods are right for you? Today!

A Call to Evangelism – Evangelism Team Closing Prayer