

How to Talk About Jesus

(Without Being **THAT** Guy)



PERSONAL EVANGELISM IN A SKEPTICAL WORLD

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A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

STORYTELLING TEMPLATE

I am _____

[Introduction: describe yourself]

My mission in life was _____

[Mission: state your mission]

Because I wanted to achieve _____

[Goal: what goal were you trying to achieve?]

So I _____

[Body: describe how you tried to achieve this mission]

But _____

[Obstacle: explain the problem of trying to fulfill this mission without God]

But Jesus _____

[Bridge: this is your “aha moment” of the gospel.

Explain how Jesus is your goal. Explain how Jesus achieves your mission for you.]

That’s when I decided _____

[Climax: explain how you decided to follow Jesus]

So now I _____

[Denouement: explain what living with Jesus looks like in your life now]

After you fill in the blanks of this template, try to insert *examples* or *events* to flesh out each part.

APPENDIX 1

Other Resources

Using Stories to Tell the Gospel

Chan, Sam, *Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable*.

Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018. Especially chapter 7.

Dillon, Christine, *Telling the Gospel Through Story: Evangelism That Keeps Hearers Wanting More*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012.

International Orality Network (ION), orality.net.

Storying the Scriptures: Telling the Gospel through Story, www.storyingthescriptures.com.

Wycliffe Bible Translators: *Story the Bible* workshops, <https://wycliffe.org.au/eventtype/story-the-bible-workshop>.

Becoming a Bible Page-Turner

The Word One to One, www.theword121.com;

publisher: 10 Publishing, www.10ofthose.com.

APPENDIX 2

Workplace Evangelism

I work for City Bible Forum, which promotes ways for people to tell their coworkers about Jesus. The pamphlet below, which we give to Christian workers, contains many of the principles found in this book.

COFFEE

Coffee is an easy invite. It's only ten minutes. You'll be in a "public" space. And the conversation will be about "safe" topics, such as the weather, sports, and movies.

- Ask what they're listening to or watching.
- Ask what they plan to do on the weekend.
- Ask about their family.

Listen properly! Learn the names of their children, spouses, hobbies, TV shows, vacation spots.

And here's the key:

The next time you meet for coffee, ask follow-up questions from last time.

- How is Brianna doing at school?

- How was the picnic with your old school friend?
- How many episodes did you get to watch on Netflix?
- What do you enjoy about cooking?

DINNER

Dinner (or lunch) is a “bigger” invite. Now we’re looking at investing sixty minutes. You’ll be in a “private” space. Here the conversation will move to “values” and “worldviews.”

Ask questions that allow them to safely talk about issues close to them:

- How are things at home?
- How are things at work?
- How are things with your parents?
- How are things with the neighbors?

Our job is simply to listen and to understand where they’re coming from.

Then ask questions that give them permission to open up:

- How do you feel about that?
- How do you think that’s going?
- What are you going to do?

GOSPEL

Sooner or later, we have the permission to start “sacred” conversations.

Ask questions such as:

- What religion did your parents have? What was that like?
- Do you have a faith? Tell me about it.
- Do you pray? Tell me about it.

They may ask you the same questions in return!

Bit by bit, we can become the de facto chaplain in their life. And bit by bit, they will come and ask us to share more and more about our faith. This is where we can share:

- how we became a Christian
- how God works in our life
- a story about Jesus from the Bible
- our favorite gospel outline

Tell them you'll pray for them, and follow up on this the next time you meet.

NEXT STEPS

Contact City Bible Forum to get:

- free resources such as *The Word One to One*
- Sam's book *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* for his favorite gospel outline

Evangelism works better in a team rather than solo.

Contact City Bible Forum to be connected with other Christians in your workplace.