**Brewster Adventist Church**

**Soul Winning 101**

***Every Member an Evangelist***

1. Please define *evangelism* in your own words.
2. Read the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20. Does this apply to all believers or only to a select few who have the spiritual gift of preaching? How can you tell?
3. Read Acts 1:1-11. Who is present during this interaction with Jesus? Notice verse 8 – were those present there that day able to fulfill this promise/prophecy? What are the implications of this?
4. Read 2 Cor. 5:16-21. What does it mean to be an ambassador?
5. Read Acts 8:1-4. Who was scattered by the persecution of the 1st-century church in Jerusalem? What did these people do in the places they went?
6. Noted historian Kenneth Scott Latourette makes this observation about the spread of the gospel in his book *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*:

“The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession or a major part of their occupation, but men and women who earned their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those whom they met in this natural fashion.”

1. If evangelism is indeed the responsibility of every member, what does that look like? Should every member preach an evangelistic series? Look at a few of the verses listed below and see what they say about the evangelistic duties of all members.

2 Thess. 3:1 Rom. 15:30-32 Col. 4:3

1 Thess. 3:1-2 Rom. 15:24 Rom. 9:1-5
1 Cor. 10:28-33 Col. 4:5-6 1 Cor. 4:16

1 Pet. 3:15-16 Phil. 4:3-7 Matt. 5:13-16

1. How do you feel God calling you to participate in spreading the Gospel?

Notes

1. The Greek word εὐαγγέλιον is extremely important for our understanding of evangelism. It is a compound of εὖ (“good”) and ἄγγελος (“messenger”). Its noun form comes into English simply as “good news” or “gospel,” and it can be the object of various verbs (εὐαγγελιζω [e.g., 2 Cor 11:7], κηρύσσω [e.g., Gal 2:2], καταγγέλλω [e.g., 1 Cor 9:14], and λαλέω [e.g., 1 Thess 2:2]). The εὐαγγέλιον is proclaimed, and Paul often describes this act of proclamation by using the verbal cognate form of the word, εὐαγγελιζω (e.g., 1 Cor 1:17). This word literally means to “gospelize,” to announce the gospel. The verbal form of the Greek was transliterated into Latin as “ēvangelizāre” and then into English as “evangelize.” The Oxford English Dictionary defines “evangelize” very closely to the literal etymological meaning of εὐαγγελιζω: “to bring or tell good tidings” or “to preach, proclaim the Gospel.” But it is important to note that the Greek does not limit the preaching of the gospel particularly to the unregenerate; it applies to all gospel preaching, both to believers and unbelievers.

***Engaging in Spiritual Conversations***

**Building Relationships**

1. People we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ know
	1. List some examples:

		1.
		2.
		3.
	2. Include them in activities that we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. List some examples:

			1.
			2.
			3.
	3. Organize a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. Look up Luke 5:27-32
			1. Instead of being overtly evangelistic, a “Matthew Party” is a social event strategically designed to mix our unchurched friends with some of our Christian friends to facilitate their interaction and do some relationship building.
			2. A dinner at your home, a picnic in the park, a Christmas or New Year’s Party, a play date with kids (or grandkids), etc.
	4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FIRST!!!
		1. “The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good.” – *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143
		2. We cannot dive headfirst into evangelizing every person we meet. To “Barbecue First” means to spend time interacting with them socially and building a genuine relationship with them.
		3. As we do this, we begin to build trust and communicate on a more personal level – which increases the opportunity we will have to talk about spiritual matters.
2. People we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to know
	1. This is renewing relationships with non-believers or perhaps people who have fallen away that we have grown apart from over time.
	2. List some examples:

		1.
		2.
		3.

* 1. It may take some effort to reconnect with these people. But you will be amazed to see how open they are to renewing friendships, even if it has been a long time.
1. People we would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to know
	1. What places or opportunities come to mind for finding these types of relationships?

		1.
		2.
		3.
	2. In addition to these ideas, another suggestion is using what is called Strategic

	\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. This is an intentional effort to frequent the same restaurant, gas station, store, barbershop/salon, etc. to get to know the people who work there.
		2. These people are not merely there to help us. They are people who matter to God and need help finding a relationship with Him. If we approach our visits with that in mind, pray and look for opportunities to be used by God when interacting with them. You will be amazed to see what can happen!
2. Points to remember

	1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. As you make contact with people, ask God who *He* wants you to develop friendships with. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to those people He has prepared for you to come alongside of, and to help you assess where they are spiritually – what they are ready for and what they are not ready for.
	2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. Most of us have heard this before, but we often fail to practice it. We cannot build authentic relationships without being great listeners.
		2. This means taking a genuine interest in others – their life and their concerns – and showing them respect. It also means being transparent or vulnerable with them. Most people have very few friends who care enough to listen to them, take the time to really understand, and who will share personal matters with them.
		3. Being a great listener is our chance to get on that short list by showing that we care.
	3. Build on areas of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. These are similar interests or activities you are both involved with. It could be that your children are the same age, that you are in the same line of work, or that you both have similar tastes in music. It could also be similar struggles or problems you both have or used to have. Whatever area it is that you have in common, discover and develop it. Plan activities or get into deeper conversations based on those areas of common ground.
	4. Mention spiritual matters \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		1. This is not an invitation to church or even an offer to pray with someone. This merely means that you are intentional about mentioning your spirituality in the normal course of your interactions with others. For example, if you are asked what activities you are involved with, you might mention a Bible study you are a part of or a Christian book you might be reading. This is so that later, when you do bring up spiritual matters more in-depth, it will not be a surprise. It also plants seeds for those future spiritual conversations.

**Starting Spiritual Conversations**

1. Look up Romans 10:11-14
	1. What does this passage say about our responsibility as Christians?
	2. Starting a spiritual conversation may happen months or minutes into our relationship with someone, depending on their openness and God’s leading. Regardless of the timetable, the Bible makes it clear that we have a part to play in sharing the Gospel with others.
	3. We need to be sensitive to the principle of putting others first. As our conversations go back and forth and become more personal, we will have the opportunity to take a risk by asking or revealing something of a more spiritual nature. If they are ready to talk more about spiritual matters, then the discussion becomes deeper. If not, then we need to move back to a safer place of conversation for a time. Trust God and His timing – don’t force spiritual conversations on people who do not want to engage in them or else we risk doing far more harm than good.
2. Three Methods
	1. Direct Method – Typically takes the form of a question or statement:

		1. Do you ever think about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
			1. Maybe you have just finished a discussion about another topic and the conversation fades a bit. If you sense your friend would be responsive, ask him or her a question like this next one…
		2. Where do you think you are on your spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
			1. This question asks what kind of progress they think they are making, not just “are they in or out?” It opens up the conversation and allows them to be honest about where they think they really are.
		3. Another possibility is to make a statement like the following – “If you would ever like to know the difference between religion and Christianity, just let me know.”
			1. This gives people the chance to respond if they are interested. Even if they are not interested at this time, it may get them thinking about it, so that they might bring it up later.
	2. Indirect Method
		1. This approach builds on the direction the conversation is already heading

		by using the topic being discussed as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a related *spiritual* topic.
		2. This is using everyday subjects such as hobbies, music, sports, or struggles that you are both facing and putting a spiritual twist to it. For example, if you friend is going through a difficult time similar to one you have encountered (an illness, financial troubles, marital problems, parenting difficulties, etc.) you can make a transition to a spiritual conversation by sharing with them how your faith in Christ or a message series at church or even a passage in the Bible helped you.
	3. Invitational Method
		1. This method transitions the conversation by inviting our friend to a Christian event that relates to the topic we are discussing.
		2. Suppose the topic of music comes up and there is going to be a Christian concert at your church. Use the Invitational Method by saying, “If you are interested in music, we have a concert coming up at church in a couple of weeks that you might really like. How would you like to come with me?”
		3. Whether the answer is yes or no, graciously accept their decision and then use it to transition the conversation to spiritual matters. For example, you could then ask them about their spiritual upbringing.
		4. Tips for inviting people:

			1. Offer to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before or after the event
			3. These tips can drastically increase the likelihood that our friend will actually attend.

Exercise: Starting Spiritual Conversations

1. Situation: You are in a situation where it is natural to comment on the beautiful weather, spectacular sights, intricacies of nature, or the wonder of creation (for example – you are hiking or at the zoo).

Possible Transition:

1. Situation: Your friend has just told you about the hobbies they like doing in their spare time, and they are interested in knowing about yours.

Possible Transition:

1. Situation: You are talking with a work associate about an upcoming holiday like Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter.

Possible Transition:
2. Situation: You are with some friends, talking about a popular TV show, movie, news program, or song.

Possible Transition:

1. Situation: It is the close of the football/baseball/basketball season, the playoffs are in full swing, and everybody is watching and talking about the event.

Possible Transition:

1. Situation: Your friend confides in you about a problem they are facing or a difficulty they are working through.

Possible Transition:

Principles for Starting Spiritual Conversations

1. Focus on the other person’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	1. Take interest in their world and apply spiritual topics to it.
2. Be willing to take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	1. Starting a spiritual conversation will almost always take us outside of our comfort zones. God honors and uses these efforts to reach other people, as well as to build our confidence and faith.
3. Make the most of split-second \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	1. Those are the daily events where we have the choice of taking the easy way out or taking a risk and opening up the conversation to spiritual matters. For example, if someone asks what you are going to do this weekend, you can either play it safe by talking about your plans to paint the kitchen or seize the opportunity to mention your plans to go to church.
	2. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us recognize appropriate opportunities and to give us boldness to take advantage of them.