

PEP TALK

A Personal Evangelism Plan

North Wake Church
2014

Always Aware

Understanding Our Mission

Who has God called you to reach with His message? The Apostle Paul said in Acts 17 that God has determined the time and the place you would live. He has placed you in your family, in your neighborhood, in your job and even with certain interests for the purpose of you being His messenger among people who need to know Him. Who are these people? Do you see them as He sees them (lost souls headed for a Christ-less eternity and trying everything to fill a void in their hearts created only for God)? How many of these people would come to the King if someone would just walk along with them to point the Way? Many of these people just need someone to pray for them, care for them and share with them. It should be you!

Understanding Your Friend's Condition

It is important that you understand the condition of your unbelieving friends. Your lost friends are powerless to help themselves. Their sins stand between them and a personal relationship with God.

Take a minute and reflect on these Biblical truths:

- They are dead - *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."* Eph. 2:1

•They are blind. *“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.”* 2 Cor. 4:3-5

•They are ensnared. *“And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”* 2 Tim. 2:24-26

•They are lost. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Rom. 6:23

STOP - Ask God to enable you to see people around you through His eyes. Ask God to reveal to you the people in your network He is calling you to reach out to.

Your Mission Field

The People You Know (and will get to know)

During the course of a week, you engage many people.

Some of these people are people that you will never see again. Some are people that you very rarely see. Others are people who you see often (your network of close relationships).

They all have two things in common: in the economy of God they have great value and they know at least one Christ follower-YOU! These people are your mission field. The question is, how do you make these relationships redemptive? God is leading us out into the mission field, out into the lives of these people. It is vitally important for you to be prepared (as 1 Pet. 3:15 exhorts us to be) to share your faith as God opens doors. Let's think about how to make the most of the brief encounters and the extended ones.

Divine Appointments

Think of the people you see periodically and are uncertain if they know Christ. Do you know their names?

1) Who is the waitress at your favorite restaurant?_____

2) Who coaches your son's or daughter's team?_____

3) Who cuts your hair?_____

4) Who is the cashier at the grocery store? convenience store?_____

5) Who works on your home (plumber, electrician, carpenter, painter)?_____

6) Who is your car mechanic?_____

7) Who do you exercise with? _____

Your Network

Think about who are the people that you have the greatest possibility to invest in. They are your closest relationships or the people you see the most often. These people are your network. Your network is the social system built around these four elements: your family members, the people you recreate with, your neighbors, and your coworkers. In the spaces below write the lost friends in your network who fall into each group.

Family Members

Players (recreation)

Neighbors

Coworkers

Narrow Your List

Which of the people listed meet the following criteria?

1. You know them on a first-name basis.
2. You have regular contact with them.
3. You don't believe they enjoy a personal relationship with God at this point.
4. You feel they are responsive to you or open to cultivating a relationship based on common ground.

As you think about the people listed above, consider your common ground (the areas of common interest, backgrounds, experiences, abilities and life situations that you share with these people). List at least one person from each category in your network and the common ground you have with them.

Family Members Common Ground

Players (recreation) Common Ground

Neighbors Common Ground

Coworkers Common Ground

Your People Group

Pray over the list above, asking God who He would like you to reach out to? Write that name or names on the line(s) below.

Who will hold you accountable and partner with you to reach out to the person above?

Commit to Prayer

We must pray. To pray is to declare our dependence on God, while to not pray is to declare our independence from Him. The early church understood this. Prayer may be the most important aspect of evangelism.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. " Acts 4:31

Prayer is a strategic weapon in the battle for souls. We call down divine power through prayer.

Prayer unleashes God's power into our lives and into the lives of the unbelievers we are praying for. Here are some suggestions of prayers for yourself in preparation for witnessing to your lost friends and some suggestions for prayers for your lost friends.

For Yourself

- Pray for purity of heart (Ps. 51)
- Pray for the passion of Christ in your own life (Luke 15)
- Pray for opportunities to share your faith (Col. 4:3-6)
- Pray for the wisdom to speak the truth (James 1:5, Col. 1:9-11)

For Your Lost Friends

- Pray for receptive hearts (Luke 8:5-12)
- Pray for clear understanding about their own sin (Jn. 16:8)
- Pray for the freedom and faith to trust in the Lord (2 Cor. 10:3-4)
- Pray for other witnesses in their lives (Matt. 9:35-38)
- Other scriptures to pray for your lost friends (Luke 24:32, Jn. 20:31, Rom. 10:1, Eph.. 1:18, 6:19, 1 Thess. 1:9)

Prayer Tools

1-1-1*

1 FRIEND, 1 O’CLOCK , 1 MINUTE

1-1-1 is a tool to help you pray effectively, fervently, and regularly for one lost friend, coworker, neighbor or relative. The beauty of it is in its simplicity. Commit to pray for them!*

Prayer Partners

Who will you team up with to 1) pray with and 2) hold you accountable to pray faithfully for your lost friends?

Small Group _____

Christian Friends

Christian Neighbors

Prayer Walking (Praying onsite with insight!)

Take a trip through your neighborhood and pray as you go. As you move through your neighborhood, pray for your neighbors by name. Pray according to what you see, know and are led to pray by God. “I urge, then, first

of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1 Tim. 2:1-4

How will you remind yourself to pray for your friends? You could make it 2-2-2 or 3-3-3 or even 12-12-12 if you would like.

Demonstrate you care

How will you demonstrate to your lost friends that they matter to God? How will they know that you care for them? Spend some time in prayer asking God how you should invest your time, your talents and your treasures into the life of our lost friend(s). Because of our very busy schedules, we must be intentional about scheduling unbelievers into our lives.

Think about your average weekly schedule. During the course of one week, what times do you interface with your family (F), your church(C), your small group (SG), your work, (W) lost friends? Instructions: Fill out the chart using the letters above to mark the hours you see these people each day.

Time Chart

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	
							6am
							7am
							8am
							9am
							10am
							11am
							12pm
							1pm
							2pm
							3pm
							4pm
							5pm
							6pm
							7pm
							8pm
							9pm
							10pm

Ask God for insight into the needs of the lost people around you. Ask Him for a servant’s heart and ways to make your life a sweet aroma to your lost friends. Ask Him to reveal to you ways for you to meet some of their needs.

STOP - Take a few minutes to stop and pray

Showing You Care

Take time to listen to your lost friends

A good listener demonstrates a genuine interest. Ask questions to discover who they are. People will be drawn to you if you listen to them. This promotes genuine friendship. Listen to their answers without judgment (see Prov. 18:13). Be patient and courteous (see Prov. 15:1).

People are longing to be a part of community (even if they aren’t sure where to find it). People often belong before they believe. Your friendship may be a vital link to their discovery of true community, fellowship and truth. Our mission as followers of Christ is by its very nature incarnate.

Jesus came into the world to reach the world. You are sent into the world to build genuine, authentic relationships with the lost. We demonstrate that we care for the lost because our Savior demonstrated his love for all of mankind through His life and death. Jesus sincerely loved those people in his life who were far from God. He intentionally left the glory of heaven to come for His people. He was always making time to speak with them, feed them, heal them and care for them.

We should do the same.

Take a look at the chart on page 10. Without intentionality, where will you find time to relate to unbelievers? If

we aren't intentional about making interaction with unbelievers, it might never happen. Spend some time answering the questions below.

What opportunities do you have to actively listen to them?

Make time to serve

Often the need of a friend is the open door that prepares a person to acknowledge their deeper, real need for Christ. What needs do they have? How can you minister to them?

Make time to play

What activities (hobbies, sports, etc.) do you share that will provide an opportunity for you to spend regular, quality time with them?

Be ready to Share

Telling Your Story - Your Personal Testimony

Everyone loves a great story. It's one of the most effective ways to communicate a concept or idea to another person. And guess what? You've got a great one to tell. Every Christian should be able to point to a time or a period in their own life when they became a Christian. They should be able to tell when and how that happened. Your story (testimony) is a powerful tool (along with prayer and Bible study) to effectively communicate what God has done in your own life. Your personal testimony is powerful, unique, and irrefutable. It is your real life experience. Telling your personal story is one way to lead others to Christ.

This exercise is designed to prepare you to tell your story. As we'll see every personal testimony has three parts:

1. Your life before Christ
2. How you met Christ
3. Your life since you met Christ

Elaborating on these three parts will provide you with an outline to give your story a clear logical order. If you would like to see this modeled in the Bible, review how the Apostle Paul shared his story in Acts 26.

Part 1 - My Life Before Christ

Where were you spiritually before you received Christ? Describe your feelings, your attitudes, your actions and your relationships.*

Part of telling your story will be describing what stirred your interest in spiritual things. This could very well be the point where your friends are at in their spiritual journey and may provide impetus for them to continue.

Part 2 - How you met Christ

What caused you to begin considering God/Christ as a solution to your needs?

What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to receive Christ?

Specifically, how did you receive Christ?

Part 3 - My life since I met Christ

How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ?

What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian?

As you work on your story, here are several points to ponder:

1. It should be repeatable. If you came to Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade you wouldn't want to say, "Billy Graham gave the invitation, and I went forward and was saved." Your friend might feel that they would have to wait for Billy Graham to come around again before they would be able to go forward during the invitation at a

crusade. Instead, you might say, "At a Billy Graham Crusade I prayed, asking Jesus Christ to forgive my sins and to become the Lord of my life." Your friend could do this in the privacy of his or her own home.

2. Jettison the jargon. Phrases like "saved," "born again," "redeemed," and "washed in the blood" are all phrases that we hold dear as believers. Unfortunately, your lost friends have little understanding of what they mean. Use phrases or words that they will understand (i.e., "placed my trust," "asked for forgiveness" or "received forgiveness").

3. Use the Bible carefully. As mentioned above, your lost friends will not understand much of what you understand from the Scriptures. Any passages you quote should have clear meaning.

Put it all together

Using the outline you've created above, type or write out your entire story. After you've completed it, read it to your spouse or a Christian friend. Ask them to critique your rough draft. Did you cover the three parts clearly? Did they understand each part? Did you avoid using Christian jargon?

Could they relate to it? When you've completed your final draft, go over it and learn it so that you'll be able to share it from memory. Sometimes you will have five minutes, ten minutes, or thirty minutes to share it. Learn to be flexible.

The following information is taken from The Search a gospel presentation presented by Search Ministries and is used with permission. Learning this gospel presentation or another one like it will give you a clear and concise way to present the truths of the Scriptures.

The Search*

"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?'" Matt. 19:16

What does it mean to be a follower of Christ, and how can one know if they are saved? These are some great questions. Let's look at what the Bible has to say about God's position, our condition, His provision, and our decision.*

What is God's Position?

The God who searches is a God of love. His desire is to have a loving relationship with us.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jn. 3:16

However, the God who searches is also a God of perfection. His absolute moral perfection is the standard upon which the relationship is based.

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matt. 5:48

What is Our Condition?

People are searching! They seek to fill the emptiness in their souls with everything but God.

Those who search must realize three things:

- *They fall short of God's standard of perfection. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Rom. 3:23
- *They face God's penalty of eternal separation. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Rom. 6:23
- *They fail to enjoy God's love. "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."* Isa. 59:2

What is God's Provision?

God, in the person of Jesus Christ, took the initiative in searching for us. God substituted Christ's perfection for our imperfection through Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit." 1 Pet. 3:18

God satisfied both His love and perfection, thereby making a relationship with Him possible. "In this is love, not

that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (satisfactory payment) for our sins.” 1 Jn. 4:10

What is Our Decision?

The search for God ends in a choice: to accept or reject Christ’s perfect payment for your sins. Accepting God’s gifts involves admitting the truth about ourselves, that we have failed to measure up to God’s standards, and we are separated from Him.

“For the wages of sin is death (eternal separation), but the (free) gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom. 6:23

Accepting God’s gift involves transferring your trust from yourself to Jesus Christ.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name.” Jn. 1:12

Calling for a decision. Are they ready? Hopefully, at the appointed time, you will have opportunity to lead your lost friend into a relationship with Christ. What do you do when they say yes?

*This information is a paraphrase of the tract *The Search* published by Search Ministries and is used with permission.