

# The Simple Gospel Message Part 1

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**A Bible Study Lesson of The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
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**Introduction:** Have you ever sat down and thought about what you would say to someone who asked you about salvation? Christians are admonished to “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence," (I Peter 3:15). Many of us are not quick thinkers and cannot speak in an organized manner off the top of our heads. Therefore, we must have previously thought about what we will say when the opportunity comes. This does not negate Jesus’ promise that the Holy Spirit will speak for us (Matthew 10: 20). Planning and having an approach to what we will say helps us to be bold in our witnessing for Christ.

The challenge is to take a very difficult concept and simplify it to the point where even a small child can understand. This is suggested in Matthew 18:2-5 where Jesus desires for us to become like children. What are children like? Trusting, lowly in self-importance, dependent, and followers. These characteristics which Jesus highlights indicate that the Gospel message must be easy to understand. The writer Paul highlighted in 1 Corinthians 1:26-28 that God chose unwise, weak, and those who were lowly in society as His people. In short, people do not need to be the most important person or the smartest person. They simply need to be one who is open to the gospel message to be saved. Thus, we who are saved must have a message that is easy and straightforward for all to hear.

How do we take this message to people who have questions and misconceptions? The answer is we must have a simple gospel message. The purpose of this lesson is to help Christians begin to format the basic structure of the gospel message and how to share that message with people so they can make a choice for salvation through Jesus. Enjoy!!!

## I. How Do I Engage People in The Most Important Conversation Ever?

So, you want to be obedient to Jesus' command to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) but you are unsure how to begin the conversation! Awesome. Let's look at some of the questions that people have before we begin.

1. Saved means?
2. Who is Jesus
3. Why do I need to be saved?
4. What is sin?
5. Can't I just be a good person
6. Is there more than one God?
7. Why do bad things happen?
8. If I accept Jesus will my life become good?
9. ETC..ETC...ETC....

People have questions and often think they need to understand everything in order to accept Jesus. Further, we often try to give them everything before they accept Jesus. This is not the reality of acceptance. Yes, people need time to understand what they are choosing, but it all begins with a conversation about needs. Today, we will focus on how to begin the conversation.

❖ **Before** we begin let's be clear about what we are doing! The term we use is evangelism.

KEY  
MESSAGE



### **What is the true meaning of evangelism?**

Evangelism is the English version of a Greek word (euangelion) which means *gospel*. Gospeling means to tell or share good news. When we are evangelizing people we *bring good news* to them. This term was generally used as good news from a battle or for any positive event that happened. As Christians, we are bringing the good news (evangelizing) about the Messiah's coming and His victory over sin.

To evangelize a person we have to find common ground to begin the discussion. The first issue a person must come to understand is that they have a problem. That problem is the disconnection from God that happens as a result of sin. But no one will ever walk up to you and ask for you to help them reconnect with God. So, where do we begin? The easiest common ground for discussion can begin with a question about their need. I have found that meeting a person where they feel struggle always opens the door to a spiritual conversation. It is as easy as asking someone: “How can I pray for you today?” This non-threatening question implies you are a Christian, you are caring, you are focused on them and not yourself, and that you want a real answer. Their answer immediately ties you to them for two reasons.

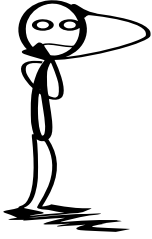
1. People will connect and listen to you if you put their needs first as seen in Philippians 2:3

**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better (more) than yourselves.**

2. You have a reason to go back and engage with the person who prayed with you. See Acts 2:41-42

**Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

In each instance we see that relationship building is part of the work of evangelism. Evangelism without relationship building will not stick. Why? Because evangelism also requires the person to be discipled. More on that later but consider that you are called to create disciples (followers and learners) not just Christians (people saved from the punishment of sin). By engaging people where they are hurting, you will be in the process of discipling them.



What next?

The door is now open once you pray for someone. You can ask various types of questions. The easy question is: Do you have a church where you regularly attend? If they answer no, you can ask them if they ever had a church they attended. This will give you valuable information about their background with Christ. Once they identify their church stance, you can jump to step two! See how this works in the following scenario.

Consider the following scenario: Sam is at the grocery store and while shopping runs into a random person who works there. After passing the same person a few times, he makes a simple humorous comment, “Are you following me?” The response will be something funny in return. He can then say something that opens a spiritual conversation such as: Today, I am committed to praying for 5 new people and you seem to be someone that God wants me to interact with, so since you are here and I’m here, how can I pray for you in 30 seconds?

**All of this constitutes step 1: Connecting with people to identify their need!**

After praying, then Sam can quickly (remember they are at work) introduce himself and let them know he will be looking for them when he comes into the store. Also, he can say “I was just wondering, do you have a church that you attend because my church is all about connecting with people so they can grow their relationship with Jesus and with other Christians.” Have the church’s business card handy and give it to them. Then leave. 1-2 minutes at most.

**All of this constitutes step 2: Engagement and relationship building.**



This approach works. **But it costs!** This approach to evangelism requires one to commit to long-term relationships with people. It forces Christians to put themselves at risk to doing more than just throwing out quick responses to spiritually suffering people. To do this, one must intentionally talk to and connect with the same people multiple times.

**Yes, you must make connections with people!!!!!!**

Did you know that one of the top three reasons people join a church is because of the deep need they have for community and relationships? I am asking you to step out of your comfort zone and make a new Christian friend. You and I can offer them the best relationship ever: a relationship with Jesus Christ and secondly, a relationship with a group of Christian believers who are growing! As you grow your community of believers you fulfill the command of Jesus to bring in the harvest.



**The Why:** At some point in the conversation you can tell them that the reason you are praying for them is because you have found that in your prayers you get to tell God what you need and also He will respond to you. Here is the way you close the conversation which automatically leads to you sharing the gospel message. I would love to talk to you about your relationship with Jesus because I have found that I do not have the answers to life, but He does.

**THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION SHOULD TAKE LESS THAN 5 MINUTES!!!**

You will note that no scripture was used in this method to open the door to evangelism. Often, our struggle is to begin. Each of us can try this method for a week to see our exact method of opening the conversation looks like and sounds like. Jesus commands us to do this. He never sets us up for failure. So, we can be certain that evangelizing is something we are already equipped to do. The real question of evangelism is will you do it? Commit to one person a day over the next week. Challenge yourself to see if you can become comfortable opening a spiritual conversation. Honor Jesus by trying!