

Rekindle the Fire
Session 1: Loving
Your Neighbor
through Intentional
Listening

Worldviews create major obstacles:

1. We are losing our youth to the culture.

2. The culture is overwhelming believers with false teaching that goes against the Word of God.

3. Islam is rapidly moving through out country and will never assimilate into America or the values of the Bible.

4. We are declining as the church!

What is a Worldview?

It is the “lens” through which
we interpret:

who we are

why we are here

what is right and wrong

what happens after death

what gives life meaning



WE ALSO FACE MAJOR DOMINATE WORLDVIEWS:

Human Autonomy as Ultimate Authority

Assumption: Individuals define their own truth, morality, and identity without external (especially divine) constraints.

"You do you" is the ethos.

Science and Technology as Saviors

**Assumption: Human progress
through tech solves all problems;
no need for supernatural
intervention.**

Materialism and Hedonism as Life's Purpose

Assumption: Happiness = sensory pleasure and consumption; no eternal soul or afterlife accountability.

*Equality as Sameness, Enforced by
State/Corporate Power.*

**Assumption: All disparities are
systemic injustices; equity trumps
merit or biology.**

Nature as Sacred, Humans as Parasites

**Assumption: Earth is a fragile;
human flourishing is subordinate
to ecology.**

Every worldview, Christian and non-Christian, deals with at least three dominate questions:

- Where did we come from and why are we here?**
- What is wrong with the world?**
- How can we fix it?**



**A Biblical Christ-
centered worldview
answers three
question!**

1. We are God's creation, designed to govern the world and fellowship with Him. (Gen. 1:27-28).

2. We sinned against God and subjected the whole world to a curse (Genesis 3).

3. God Himself has redeemed the world through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Luke 19:10), and will one day restore creation to its former pristine state (Isaiah 65:17-25).

The Christian Worldview tells us to:

Surrender to Jesus in repentance and faith.

To be His life-long disciple.

To share this good news with all.

To be the light of Jesus in a dark world.

**When I share the Biblical
Worldview, this is what I often hear
from believers!**

Pastor I'm not a theologian.

I'm certainly not a Billy Graham.

*My role is to live a Biblical life and
worship God.*

I go to church every Sunday!

What does Jesus say we are to do?

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Witness-The Calling for all believers.



A witness is *every
follower of Jesus.*

A witness is someone
who testifies to what
they have seen,
experienced, and
believe about Jesus.

Biblical foundation:

- *Acts 1:8 — “You will be my witnesses...”*
- *1 Peter 3:15 — “Always be ready to give a reason for your hope.”*

What a witness does:

- Shares personal testimony of what Jesus has done in their life yesterday and today.**
- Lives in a way that reflects Jesus.**
- Speaks about Jesus in everyday conversations.**
- Represents Jesus in their workplace, home, and community.**

Simple definition: A
witness = *every Christian*
telling others about Jesus
through life and words.

2. Christian Evangelist (A specific gifted role)

An evangelist is someone especially gifted and called to proclaim the gospel clearly and effectively, often to large groups or unreached people.

Biblical foundation:

- *Ephesians 4:11* — “Christ gave...evangelists...”



**This is where many people get
confused:**

- **All Christians are witnesses.**
- **Some Christians are evangelists.**

All Christians are still called to participate to evangelize.

Think of it like this:

Every Christian is a *light*, but some are *spotlights*.

Jesus never permits a believer to say:

“I’m not an evangelist, so I don’t share my faith.”

Because:

- *All* are witnesses (Acts 1:8).
- *Every* believer is commanded to engage in sharing the Gospel directly.



Practical Illustration

- A witness is like someone in court saying: *“Here’s what I saw and experienced.”*
- An evangelist is like a skilled attorney presenting the case clearly and calling for a verdict.



Simple Takeaway

- **Witness = identity (every Christian).**
- **Evangelist = gifting (what some Christians are especially called to do).**

Identity vs. Calling

Witnessing Quiz:

- 1. Out of 365 days a year how many days do you believe you witness to one other person about the love and grace of Jesus?**
- 2. On a scale of 1 (least) to 10 (greatest) how confident are you in sharing the Gospel of Jesus?**

3. If someone said to you: *“I’m dying. I need this Jesus you believe in. Lead me to saving faith right now.”* Would you know what to do?

4. Someone says: *All faiths lead to the same end.* How would you respond?

5. Somone confesses: *I’m hearing inner voice that tell me I’m worthless.* What would you say to them?

SMALL GROUPS:

**Identify The Three Biggest
Obstacles, Fears You Face
In Witnessing For Jesus?**

EASY STEPS FOR WITNESSING WITHOUT OTHERS KNOW THAT YOU'RE WITNESSING.



- **Initiating a conversation
permitting them to do most of the
talking and you do most of the
listening.**
- **How? Focus on them, their words,
their dress, their tattoos, they
emotions, their face.**

**How do you initiate a conversation
with someone you barely know?**

Three Observations:

- Observe their EMOTIONS.**
- Observe distinguishing
CHARACTERISTICS.**
- Observe TONE OF VOICE.**

**Ask questions or make statements
based on these three criteria.**

Starters

- 1. That's an interesting tattoo, why did you choose that one?*
- 2. You look tired and overwhelmed. Bet you could use two weeks on the beach.*
- 3. You are very good at what you do. How have you learned to do that?*

4. You must enjoy your life and work since I see such a bright smile.

5. You display a lot of confidence. You must have a lot of joy and inner peace.

What not to do:

Make the conversation about you.

Be overly empathetic.

Be their problem solver.



What to do:

Let them do the majority of the talking and respond to what they say.

Review their feelings and content.

Identify what you observe and let them lead the conversation.

You are looking for Solomon's promise: *Eternity is already in their hearts.* See if they bring up spiritual matters.

The Top Five Needs Of People.

- Having Purpose
- To be Listened Too
- Hope Beyond This Life
- Meaningful Relationships
- Inner Peace



The Fundamentals of Effective Listening.

Listen to them.

Listen to the Holy Spirit.

**When you listen, you
will truly hear!!!!**



**Effective Listening
contains three
components.**

**Identifying and reflecting back the
FEELINGS of the speaker.**

**Identifying and reflecting back the
CONTENT of the speaker.**

**Identifying and listening to the HOLY
SPIRIT while PRAYING under your
breath.**

Questions?

Break!

A vertical strip of fire, likely a bonfire or a large fire, is positioned on the left side of the slide. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with flames reaching upwards. It is set against a black background.

Session 2: Loving Your Neighbor through Spirit led Conversations

Exercise: Groups of Two!

One is the listener, one the speaker.

Opening statement from listener: *You look like you're carrying a heavy burden today.*

The speaker come up with a brief discussion about problems they face without directly speaking to the problem.

The listener then picks upon the feelings and content and reflects back to the speaker.

Key Idea:
Your Role in Effective Listening

**To listen closely and reflect back
both the FEELINGS and the
CONTENT of the speaker!**

Grab a Partner Right Now

**Designate who is speaker “A”.
Designate who is speaker ”B”.**

B close your eyes.

A look at the screen.

Speaker:

Pick one story line from below but don't tell the listener. The listener's job is to figure out the problem through active listening

Reflecting Feelings and Content.

- What losing your first pet meant to you.**
- How you felt the first time you were rejected.**
- Your spouse just told you their thinking of leaving.**

A close your eyes.

**B look at the
screen.**

Speaker:

Pick one story line from below but don't tell the listener. The listener's job is to figure out the problem through active listening

Reflecting Feelings and Content.

- You're disillusioned with life and Christianity.**
- You feel that your parents neglected you.**
- You feel cheated by life.**

Feedback

**An effective listener is an
investigator
looking for clues that reveal
the truth.**



Key Words or Clues to Listen for.

- I'm sad
- I'm happy
- I'm hopeless
- Life is difficult
- I'm angry
- I feel so alone
- I want to die
- I want to give up
- No use going on
- What's the point
- Why bother
- I give up
- I'm bitter
- I'm resentful



The Art of Asking Timely Questions.

- It focuses on what the speaker has already said.**
- It takes into account the feelings of the speaker.**
- It takes into account the content of the speaker.**
- It takes into account the unspoken behavior of the speaker.**

- **It is a non-threatening means of giving the speaker freedom to respond.**
- **It is open ended inviting more conversation.**

Examples of timely questions:

“You said you feel that your life is hopeless, and you want to give up. Would you like to find real hope?”

“You sound like you are ready to take a risk with your life to something meaningful. What would that look like?”

“You said you feel like dying. What happens after that?”

Timely Questions:

You are attempting to use their content and feelings to help them look deeper and more profoundly at their life and purpose!



Listen for Transitional Statements to the Gospel:

- I wish I knew my purpose!**
- Why was I born?**
- Why won't God help me?**
- I'm afraid to die.**
- What's the point?**
- I don't see a light at the end of the tunnel.**

Your Challenge and Invitation

- **Would you like an answer?**
- **Would you like to know for sure?**
- **I found the answer and I'd be glad to tell you when you want to know.**

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH:

**Until they want Jesus you
cannot give Him to them!**

Your Role:

- **Be honest.**
- **Listen Actively.**
- **Listen for the Holy Spirit.**
- **Ask good questions.**
- **Expect them to reveal a need.**
- **Pick up on that need and follow it.**

- **Ask them if they would like to know how to have that issue resolved.**
- **Share Jesus in you.**
- **Share the ARC.**
- **Invite them to ask Jesus into their life.**
- **Give them your name and number.**
- **Invite them into discipling.**

**The New Challenge
we are or will soon
be facing in our
communities.**





There is a knock on your church door. You open the door and two Muslims are standing there.

They say to you:

“Last night Jesus came to us in a vision, called us to faith in Him, and told us to come to you because you would know what to do with us now to become disciples!”

Would you know what to do?

**Turn to your neighbor
and tell them what you
would do.**

**What
questions
ought we to
ask Muslims?**

?

?

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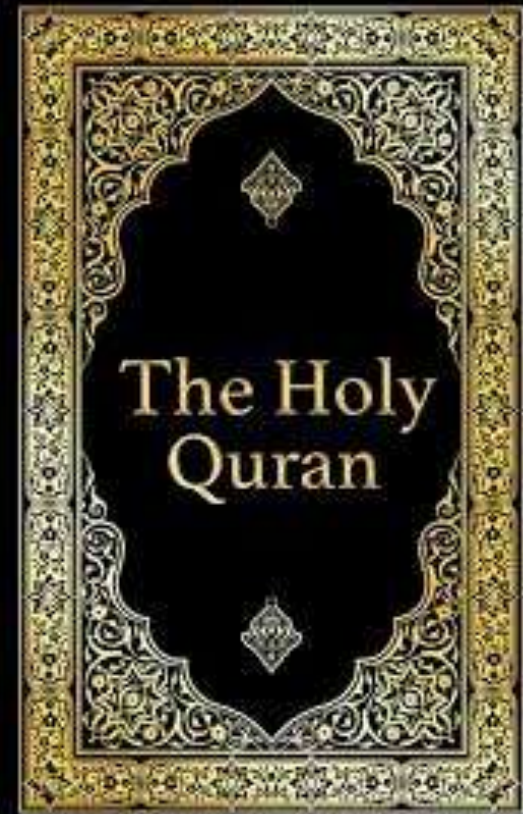
**Utilize their feelings,
content, and the Holy
Spirit to begin a
conversation.**





**Focus on
them, their
goals, their
hopes.**

**If they want to
talk about Allah
and Muhammad
listen then ask:**



Then Ask:
When you die will you
go to heaven?

My Response: *I know I will go to*
heaven and that is why I live with this
inner peace each day.

Ask:

*Will Allah accept you as
you are?*

*My Response: I realize I can never be
good enough to be accepted by God so
I need a savior. May I tell you about
my savior?*

Ask:

*What do you have to do
to be in Allah's favor?*

*My Response: The Bible tells me that Jesus
has taken my place and his perfect life has
opened the door to God and heaven.*

*Ask: Do you do
everything the Quran
commands?*

*My Response: I'm not perfect. God tells
me I will never be perfect. However, God
has provided the solution. Would you like
me to share with you that solution that
has brought me inner peace?*

What are the major benefits to this approach?

- Keeps the door open to future conversation.**
- It provides them with invitations and opportunities.**
- It keeps you from declaring them right or wrong!**
- It shows them personal respect.**



If someone wants to
receive Jesus as Lord and
Savior follow these Three
Simple Steps to Present the



A.R.C.



A. R. C.

A = For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23



A. R. C.

R=REPENT and be baptized, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness
of your sins. Acts 2:38



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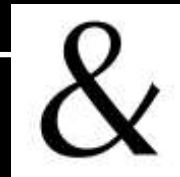


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A. R. C.

C=If you **CONFESS** with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. Rom. 10:9



Prayer of Commitment

A.B.C.D.

A-I Accept what the Bible says about my sin and repent.

B-I Believe that Jesus is the one and only Savior.

C-I Commit my life and eternity to Jesus.

D-I Decide today to be a life-long **Disciple** of Jesus Christ.



OK.
Now what?

This is Huge and Mostly Ignored!

D-I Decide today to be a life-long **Disciple**
of Jesus Christ.

**The problem with Western
Disciplining. We target the =**



**We must
also target
the:**



**We must
also
target
the: Soul**



How?
Utilizing The Most
Effective Tool for
Christian Discipling Ever
Discovered.

Discipleship: The Process!

- 1. Invite believers and seekers each week to home church and public worship!**
- 2. Keep asking if they don't come right away.**
- 3. If they do come introduce them as many believers as possible.**

4. This produces the highest return rate of an any approach.

5. If they cannot attend the home church make every attempt to meet with them, one on one, once a week around a tool for study.

6. Use biblical wisdom.

The Healthy Process:

Men one-on-one with men.

Women one-on-one with women.

Men can lead women in groups of two or more.

Women can lead men in groups of two or more.

Truths for New Christians

- **Assurance of salvation** (Hebrews 13:5)
- **Knowledge of Jesus Christ** (John 20:31, Romans 10:17)
- **Forgiveness/confession of sins** (Rom 5:6-9, 1 John 1:9)
- **The ministry of the Holy Spirit in his/her life** (John 14:25-26, Ephesians 5:18)
- **Understanding his/her new identity in Jesus Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- **Understanding his/her purpose in Jesus Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Discipleship: The Process!

Two Workable Tools.

21 Day Challenge

**(Gospel of John. Read one chapter
per day with one question and one
challenge.)**

Discipleship: The Process!

Two Workable Tools.

Discipleship First Steps. Ten
interactive lessons on
discipleship.

**Both available as a download
pdf free of charge at
www.stpaulsevlutheran.org
Resources**

Questions?

Bonus



THE POWER OF HOME CHURCHES IN YOUR CHURCH

**Home churches are the
best tool for:
reaching new people,
discipling new believers,
bearing one another's
burdens.**

HOW DOES A HOME CHURCH OPERATE?

Small setting (10-12 people).

Centered around fellowship and food.

Focused on the Bible.

**Open for personal reflection and
study.**

Living out the 59 "one another"

New Testament passages.

Bearing one another's burdens.

Taking care of one another.

**Effective Doorway for inviting
believers and non-believers.**