

EVANGELISM | WEEK 1

written by Luke Humphrey

Read | In order to grow in our evangelism, we need to first understand what evangelism is and what it isn't. When the Bible speaks of evangelism, it refers to the proclamation of the gospel (the *evangel*). This can be done to both believers (Rom 1:15) and non-believers (Acts 8:12). Usually, when we talk about evangelism, we are referring to the latter—preaching the gospel to non-believers. For simplicity's sake, this Ordinary Challenge will use evangelism to refer to a believer sharing the gospel with a non-believer, but it is important to recognize that the Bible uses the word in different ways.

It is also important to recognize that evangelism refers to *proclamation*. People are frequently hesitant about engaging in evangelism because they have a misunderstanding of what is involved in evangelism; we confuse evangelism with other good ministries, such as apologetics. It is certainly helpful to know what objections people have to Christianity—such as the belief in a creator God—but it is the *gospel* which is the power of salvation to all who believe, not just belief in a god. Sadly, it is possible for someone to spend all his time talking to his neighbor, focusing on objections to Christianity, so that the gospel is never presented, and, thus, evangelism never actually happens. As Mack Stiles writes, "A housewife meeting with a friend over coffee may be evangelizing, while a brilliant Christian apologist speaking to thousands in a church sanctuary may not be" (J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism: How the whole church speaks of Jesus*, 18). When we participate in evangelism, we must make sure that the gospel is at the forefront; otherwise, we aren't actually doing evangelism.

Since evangelism is fundamentally *gospel*-proclamation, this week's ordinary challenge will focus on understanding the gospel and putting it in a clear and concise framework. A great framework for understanding the gospel is *God / Man / Christ / Response*. This frame with focuses on the big questions and areas that are addressed when we share the gospel. Take time to look up and read each of the verses below.

God	Man	Christ	Response
Is. 6:1-3 Ps. 8:1-4 1 John 4:7-12	Gen. 1:26-27 Eph. 2:1-3 Rom. 6:23	John 3:16 Rom. 5:6-8 Col. 1:15-20 1 Cor. 15:1-4	Eph. 2:8-10 John 1:9-13 Acts 2:37-38, 41

Write | After you've read the verses above, briefly write out your own summary of each section of the framework *God / Man / Christ / Response* (1-2 sentences each).

Pray | As you reflect upon the gospel, praise God for His goodness to you in reconciling you to Christ, and pray that your love for the gospel and your faith in His promises would overflow in telling others about this good news.

Do | Commit to one person in your web of relationships that you can share the gospel with over the next week. Share with your Small Group the name of the person to whom you are going to reach out and ask them to pray and follow up with you on how it went.