

Listening Evangelism: WRBC

- What is something that makes you nervous about having Gospel conversations?
Examples: Not knowing what to say, awkward situations, etc.

- What are you going to learn from this Session?
 - How to actively engage with others and use simple techniques to help implement the Gospel into a conversation with a friend or stranger.

“God gave us two ears and one mouth, and we should take the hint!”

What we Naturally do in Conversations and tips to combat against simple mistakes.

- **Proximity** – Stand too close or stand too far.
 - 1-2 ft is too close. 8-12 ft is too far.
 - A good distance should be around 3-4 feet apart when communicating with someone.
 - Also standing at a 45-degree angle can help make the conversation be more comfortable when the two of you have something else to stare at other than each other.
- **Attention Span:** A 2018 study shows that we typically have an attention span of 8 Seconds when engaged in conversations. That means we can get distracted by our phones, surrounding, or our own personal thoughts within a conversation.
- **Avoid awkward nonverbal communication** (Facial expressions, hand gestures, tones)
- **Forgetting Names**
 - Ask them questions to remember their name.
 - Is that a family name? (Sometimes the name was given because of a relative, being born close to a holiday, etc.)
 - How do you spell that? (Unless it's easy like, Sam. You should know how to spell Sam.)
 - Type a note in your phone after the encounter to remember their name later.
- **Unintentional Personal Story Telling**
 - When we hear someone say something that reminds us of a personal story, we can stop listening and wait for the opportunity to tell our story)
 - Focus on listening to the person and show that you care about what they are saying. Listen
 - Listen for free information that can progress the conversation. The person can give you info about job, family, church, childhood, etc. Listen to them.

- **Ask good questions:** can help progress the conversation further. Try to avoid simple yes and no questions.
 - Example: Ask about their job, what got them interested in their field, if their job is temporary, what would be an ideal job for them?
 - Progress the conversation further and talk about them.

Using simple listening techniques can help progress the conversation further that allows you to know the person you are talking to and show that you care about what they are saying.

“If I have only an hour with someone, I will spend the first 55 minutes asking questions and finding out what is troubling their heart and mind, and then in the last 5 minutes I will share something of the truth.” – Francis Schaeffer

In progressing to a Gospel conversation: ask good questions that can open a door to share the Gospel.

If you are actively living out the Gospel in your own life, think of how simple it will be to talk about the Gospel in a conversation. When we read the Bible daily, are active in our church, share the Gospel with others, etc. we won't need an excuse to bring up the Gospel when the Gospel is a part of our life!

Example from the Bible

John 4:1-30

Context: There was a deep distrust between Jews and Samaritans. It would be unheard of a man speaking with a woman in this context.

Read the passage and try to point out how Jesus engages with the woman in conversation.

Jesus uses the context around him to speak with the woman, and progresses the conversation forward by asking good questions. Jesus also finds a way to implement the Gospel by simply using his surroundings.

Close

“Always leave someone with a corner to retire gracefully into. You are not trying to win an argument or to knock someone down. You are seeking to win a person, a person made in the image of God. This is not about your winning; it is not about your ego. If that is your approach, all you will do is provoke their pride and make it more difficult for them to hear what you have to say.” – Francis Schaeffer