



**Optional Icebreaker:**

-Non-verbal birthday lineup - Ask everyone to line up according to the month and day of birth (from first of the year to end of the year) without any talking. This should inspire some interesting means of communication towards a common goal. Then have them do it blindfolded and without talking – you may allow planning before they begin. But make sure to mix them up after the planning and before they try it.

**Principle: We are all evangelists; it is just a matter of what we evangelize for.**

**Activity:** Have students pull out pen and paper. Ask them to think about and then write down their personal definition of “evangelize” or “evangelism”.

**Lesson:**

We all have something to evangelize about.

**Discussion ?:** What is a movie you love? Do you tell people they should watch it?  
What is another thing you love to tell people about, or attempt to get them to try?

We naturally evangelize about the things we love. We share the news and the experience with others, trying to convince them to take part in it also.

Evangelism for the church is all about the fact that we are thirsty people and we found water. And, there are other thirsty people out there who are looking for the water.

There was a skit that was quite popular about ten years or so ago. The set up is this. Two friends get in a car wreck; they both die. After death one goes to heaven and one goes to hell. That is fine and theologically correct. At this point, the one entering heaven continually hears the cries and pleas of the hell bound person asking why he did not tell him about Jesus. This, of course, is a skit to promote evangelism through fear, not love. Nobody will evangelize over time out of a fear of such a situation.

**So, fear of eternal condemnation is never motivation for the believer.**

Church often uses fear to motivate (some legitimate element here, but not primary).

**I. Primary motivator for evangelism is experience...Acts 4:20**

**Discussion ?:** How can experience motivate you?

**1. You are not responsible for anybody else's salvation.**

We often are scared to tell church goers this, for we are scared this will cause a reaction of everyone aborting evangelism. But the reality is that in freedom there is a greater response to evangelize. And those who will evangelize in this world

cannot be stopped by anyone. There is a great relief to believers when this truth sinks in. The freedom to live, love, and share rests on the other side of this truth.

**2. You are responsible to share with others.**

*Matthew 28:19-20*

“All authority...therefore go.”

Notice the order. We go to make disciples because He has authority. God has authority of situations and people, so there is a freedom to share because He holds the power.

**II. Evangelism is not us paving the road for Jesus.**

Evangelism is Jesus paving the road for us to share about Him.

**III. Evangelism is a natural reaction for anyone who encounters Jesus in a life changing way.**

Maybe you are here and saying...oh but I am...

1. Too shy
2. Too ignorant

It is not about you...all about Jesus.

All authority is given to Him...therefore go.

**Break into group for group work.** Answer the following questions, and then come back together for discussion.

What words do you think of when you hear the term evangelize?

What are the primary fears you have that stop you from telling people about Jesus?

How can we overcome these fears?

**Bring back into main group for continued lesson.**

**The Moment to Evangelize:**

The moment comes and we often get fearful or walk away. Below are three popular fear factors that come into play. Discuss them with the class.

“I should say something...but...”

1. **They’ll reject me.**
2. **They’ll think little of me.**
3. **They will not want me around.**

**Discussion ?:** Do you agree with the 3 above responses?

Not up for debate whether we should go and tell – natural reaction and a commandment.

**Practical Points:**

**1. Experience God.**

You must have your own personal faith.

**2. Be deliberate.**

Without an attitude and heart of intentionality, there will be little evangelism.

**3. Speak of personal experience.**

Your witnessing experiences do not always have to be arguments or apologetic discussions of genius; just what you know and have

experienced. This does not excuse us from being able to discuss our faith in a fashion that is understandable.

**4. Love them anyways.**

This is crucial. If you begin a friendship with someone in aim to lead them to the Lord and they reject the offer, do not cut them off. You are their friend and continue the relationship no matter what their response is to God. We never know what God will do tomorrow.

**Discussion ?:** How important do you think it is to continue a relationship with someone you are witnessing to?

### **Small Group Questions**

1. What are your initial thoughts when you hear the word evangelism?
2. What ways do you think your church is good at evangelism? Bad?
3. What is your primary motivation for evangelizing?
4. Why do you think it is so hard to evangelize?
5. Who do you know that is great at evangelizing? Why? How?
6. Who in your life is in need of Christ that you could begin to share with?