



## Adventuring with Jesus

*Great perspectives which enable you to move forward in sharing your faith - naturally!*

how to get yourself ready to experience a normal spiritual conversation with someone

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There are 3 Articles to this series (bold is this Article):

1. **Adventuring with Jesus** – Great Perspectives which enable you to move forward in sharing your faith
2. Be a Co-Journer – Conversation Starters (Ignition and Gear Questions)
3. Challenging Apathy with Conversation Jolters

This article will enable you to take on some great perspectives to move you forward with confidence in sharing your faith.

### What is a Spiritual Conversation?



Having a Spiritual Conversation is going on an adventure with Jesus, discovering where someone is up to with Jesus, then as possible, helping them take another step towards him.

It is amazing and exciting **to find out what God's Holy Spirit is doing in a person's life** (where they are up to with God). **Then you can help them take the next step towards Jesus.** Remember, the Holy Spirit's role is to draw the non-Christian towards Christ. Our role is to find out where that is up to (see Engels Scale), and co-operate with the Holy Spirit to be a positive part of that journey.

This training can help you effectively share your faith with anyone, from family and friends to people standing in line in a supermarket to an O-week contact on campus.

### Perspective #1 : **What if I doubt I can do it?**



Have a look at who Jesus worked with – Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted (*what? Some doubted!!! – They are worshiping the risen Christ in the flesh & they are doubting? – so, not so different from us huh?*). <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority (*how much? – oh, all...*) in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go (or - as you are in the going) and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (*ok, all this is relevant for us then...*). And surely (behold) I am with you always, to the very end

*of the age.” - right with us to the very end then? – YES!*

Surely is translated “Behold” in some versions, which can be helpful for us – “behold Jesus”, he will be with us to the very end of the age – focus on Jesus to make a difference in your life, enabling you to make disciples.

Here you see the Great Commandment worked out. All authority is given to Jesus – Therefore go and make disciples and behold – Jesus will be with you to the very end of the age.

This expands on what Jesus taught about what is the greatest commandment of the Law:

**Matthew 22:34-40** <sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: **‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’** <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

It looks like Jesus is on about using us to go and make disciples (ie: fellow followers of Jesus), even if we have doubts!

And the Holy Spirit equips us for being Jesus witnesses – Acts 1:8:

<sup>8</sup> But you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

## Perspective #2: Stepping Up to the Crease – a life-long adventure!

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The principle I use in all my conversations with every person, even annoying telemarketers, is this: God has placed me before this person at this time and my role is one of an adventurer who starts an exciting journey of discovery! I can discover where this person is up to with God and help them take the next step towards him.

Now many people, including me, feel that watching cricket is about as exciting as an afternoon ironing doilies. But the experience changes radically when you are the one standing at the crease and facing a spinner. So I’m going to use a cricketing analogy in which successful evangelism is simply stepping up to the crease to bat. The bowler is the non-believer; the ball is the conversation piece. The crease is where the batter stands to face the next ball from the bowler. The cool thing about cricket evangelism, is that you don’t have to hit a six; in fact you don’t have to even hit the ball.

**The winning move is simply stepping up to the crease!**

Just like the batter wears protective gear, we need to **put on spiritual armour**, as this is a spiritual adventure with forces of darkness pitted against us. By engaging in cricket evangelism, you are intensifying the battle over someone’s soul. This is good, but not safe or comfortable, so remember to put on the armour of God (Eph 6:10-17).

Take heart: you may get stuck (or struck out) early in an evangelistic conversation. That is fine, because you still stepped up to the crease! Later, in *Kitting Out your Evangelism Tool-Belt*, I will introduce you to some unsticking tools.

## Perspective #3: God’s Role vs Your Role

It’s not your job to change a person’s lifestyle. That is God’s role for further down the track. They may be living an obviously sinful life that may shock or dismay you. But really, that’s to be expected if they are not claiming to follow Jesus. It is not your job to correct their behaviour; it’s to point them towards Jesus. Once Christ is in their life, they will they have the Holy Spirit to empower and direct them for the changes that need to happen in their life.

It’s a different story with Christians who are living sinfully. There are Biblical procedures for dealing with those which we won’t go into here. Suffice to say that Jesus was quite gentle with those who didn’t claim to be right with God. But he had harsh things to say to those who were claiming to be righteous, yet were being hypocritical (eg. some Pharisees), or who were holding others to a standard they themselves were not meeting. God’s role is highlighted in this definition of success in spiritual conversations:

## **Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.**

Notice how the results are between them and God, not you! Remember, the Holy Spirit is working through you giving you power to witness...

It is vitally important that you don't try and steal the results and thus the glory away from Jesus!

Eg: Say you go and share your faith, and have 3 going no-where conversations in a row. You may decide to take these "no results" onto yourself and conclude that you are no good at sharing your faith! These results have absolutely nothing to do with you! Do not steal them away from God – you don't want to lay a hand on God's glory do you?

### **Why even a "No" is so powerful...**

The Holy Spirit can actually use their act of saying no to stimulate a spiritual crisis. It is amazing what God can do with a No, like triggering other questions in their mind which worry them enough to start seeking answers eg:

- Is there a God? I just said NO to finding out. Maybe I need to find out if there is a God?
- What if there is a God? Would God want to know me? What if I need to know about God?

Jan, a Student Life student at USQ, approached a random stranger, another female student, in the cafeteria at uni. Jan introduced herself and asked if the girl would like to talk about Christian issues through a short questionnaire. The girl said, "No, I'm not interested." Jan moved on and didn't give it much more thought. A couple of years later after Jan started work, she ran into a young woman coming in the door as Jan was leaving. The woman looked at Jan and said, "You! I know you!" But Jan didn't recognise her. The woman said, "Back a few years ago, you were with a Christian group at uni and you asked me a question to see what I thought about God and stuff. I said no, I wasn't interested. As I watched you walk away that day, the thought hit me, *what if there is a God? Maybe I need to do something about that!* The question went round and round in my mind for a year and drove me berserk. Eventually, I tracked down a Christian friend and asked her to tell me what it was all about it. She did, and I became a Christian!"

I know of several others (including me) who initially said NO to discussing Christianity. The mere act of doing that raised questions in their minds which bugged them so much, they eventually had to seek answers for them and became Christians, just like Jan's friend!

For me, a friend asked me to go to Youth Group with him when I was in grade 10. I replied (very casually & confidently) "Sorry mate, look that God stuff is really a bit silly and I'm just not into that."

It struck me then – "What if God is real and there is something I am supposed to do about that?" I certainly felt uneasy that I had said no! I wasn't quite game to approach my friend and tell him I had changed my mind. But I determined that next time I had a chance I was going to say YES!

### **Perspective #4: What's Great About Getting a "NO" or a "Not Interested"**

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What if the person just doesn't want to talk about anything to do with Christianity or has no question they want to ask a Christian? Be assured, getting a No is actually a chance to open the door of eternity for them.

You can simply respond, **"One day a question might come up about God; if it does, I encourage you to ask a Christian that question and see where that road takes you."**

Anytime you give someone the chance to have a look at God or spiritual issues, you have co-operated with God to open the door of eternity for them.

The cool thing about opening the door of eternity so people can have a look at God means they must make a decision about that. They can:

- Say No – they lean forward, grab the door handle and shut it
- Say No - they step back, grab the door handle and shut it
- Show some interest - step through the door and have a quick glance around at who God is

- Show genuine interest – step through the door, like what they see and and stay til they hear the gospel

After all, their response is not your responsibility. Remember the definition of success in witnessing:

**Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit and *leaving the results to God.***

### **Perspective #5: BUT...What will people think of me if I do this crazy stuff?**

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Don't worry! No seriously, don't worry. Why not? Most of us go about each day worrying what other people will think of us...is my hair ok? Did I say the right thing? Have I spilt something down my front? Guess what... everybody else is thinking the same thing about themselves! The other person isn't wasting effort thinking about you because **they are too busy wondering what you are thinking about them**...is my hair ok? Have I spilt something down my front? Is my zipper up? Or better yet, gosh, that was an interesting question, how will I answer that?

So don't waste your energy and shrivel your courage worrying what other people think about you, because they simply aren't.

Don't be ashamed, instead be excited about who you are going on this adventure with – Jesus!

### **Perspective #6: A Negative Christian Experience**



If they have had a negative experience of Christian things or a bad perception of the church, ask them thoughtfully about it. Then empathise with them. You don't have to defend the church! For the great majority of negative experiences, you can honestly say, **“If I was in your place and that happened to me, I would feel the same way.”** Or **“I'm sorry that happened to you.”** You now have a point of empathy with that person.

This is very powerful, as this may be the first time a Christian has agreed that they received a difficult time in their experience of Christianity. This can really leave that person with a positive experience of Christianity, which the Holy Spirit can use to turn them towards Christ. In our culture it takes around 4-5 positive experiences of Christianity before someone is ready to have a serious look at God.

At this point, they may be ready to ask you questions, or you can ask them something to see if there is anything you can help them with. **Ask “If you could ask a Christian (eg me) any question, what would it be?”**

### **Perspective #7: “Funny you should ask” – do people really engage with you? (Or - Does the IGNITION question really work?)**

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I like to turn a conversation in a spiritual direction (ie. step up to the crease) by asking questions, as they are much more powerful than statements.

Questions enable you to:

- discover what a non-believer really thinks – walk alongside them for a while on their spiritual journey
- help non-believers clarify their own beliefs
- gently challenge those their beliefs

Remember, the mindset we want to develop here is that you are on an adventure with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has already gone before you and has been drawing people towards Jesus. Our job is to just discover where they are up to and help them take the next step.

Sometimes Christians (interestingly who aren't active in evangelism) have challenged me that conversational evangelism can't work. They claim that Aussies just don't talk about spiritual things or that it isn't in our culture. They might be right about this, but it can actually work in our favour. Aussies talk easily about the weather, sport, music, movies etc., but the things that actually trouble them spiritually and philosophically, go unarticulated. This is great because it creates a void that evangelistic Christians can fill. My experience has been that when Aussies are actually given that rare gift - the chance to talk about spiritual things – they grab it! It may feel a bit unusual for them, but you can propel that conversational journey along with good questions.

To develop and test the notion that you can have constructive evangelistic conversations with Aussies, I thought about my test audience – who are the hardest people to converse with in Australia? I think the hardest conversations theoretically are:

- with complete strangers who have no reason to trust me
- with those who have an agenda, which is not wanting to build a relationship with me
- with someone perhaps over the phone where the conversation is not face-to-face
- when I am not "primed" for the conversation, it just starts out of the blue



This may sound like a tough start to a spiritual conversation, but what if we add another criterion – they want to sell you something! Who fits the bill? Telemarketers, of course!

In this conversation with Brian, an insurance telemarketer, you can clearly see how God was at work in his life. And so could Brian, at least a little! While Brian was putting together some insurance quotes, I asked questions to find out where exactly the Holy Spirit's work was up to. It was then my privilege to put the next piece of the puzzle in place for him.

Cam: So where are you calling from?

Brian: *I've just moved here to Melbourne recently for work.*

Cam: So have you made any friends yet? Gotten involved in any community groups or sport or church?

Brian: *No, not yet, but that would be a good next step I guess.*

Cam: The way I got involved in my community here is through church. **So what's been your experience of Christian stuff?** (what I call the **Ignition question** – see training: **Be a Co-Journer**)

Brian: *Funny you should ask! I used to go to church when I was growing up. But then I went to uni and got married and left all that behind. But the freakiest thing happened yesterday. While we were having dinner, my 4-year old daughter looked up at me and said, "Daddy, why aren't we part of God's family?" It really got to me. So I've been thinking a lot about that. And now, incredibly, here you are, the very next day, asking me about the same thing!*

Cam: so what do you want to do about your daughter's question? Do you want to investigate becoming part of God's family?

Brian: *Yeah! But what do I do?*

(If he'd had more time, at this point, Cam would have given him a gospel presentation using the KGP points, but with limited time, the best he could do was hook him up with someone else who could share the gospel later.)

Cam: A good first step would be visiting churches and finding one that you like. Look for a church that's on about Jesus, in a style you like, where you could make friends. Then get to know people and ask them how you can know Jesus better.

Brian: *Gosh! Wow! I never thought of doing that! Thanks for that, I'm gonna do that!*

We actually have a significant cultural advantage here. Because it isn't in our Australian culture to talk about spiritual things at all, when you give someone the chance they often (sometimes after a little hesitation) will open right up. WHY? Because it is so rare (if ever) that they get a chance to talk about spiritual things, now here is their chance!

How about you? Do you want to step to the crease? Batter UP!

## **Perspective #8:** The stone in the shoe...the seed of healthy doubt

Sometimes the person you are talking with just isn't open to a spiritual journey. The best thing you can do for



them is to put a stone in their spiritual shoe, grit in their spiritual eye or a knot in their spiritual knickers *that they will eventually have to address. As you know, if you have a stone in your shoe, even though it is small, it is really annoying and it's not long before you've gotta stop and deal with it! Note: If you are wearing Lego shoes (see left), the whole shoe feels like a stone in the shoe.*

*You can sow a seed of healthy doubt in their minds about spiritual beliefs they took for granted. Doubt can lead to openness. (see Be a Co-Journer – Conversation*

*Starters (Ignition and Gear Questions) and Challenging Apathy with Conversation Jolters articles)*

## **Perspective #9:** Kitting Out your Evangelism Tool-Belt

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These role-plays are from real-life conversations I have had with strangers. As you read these conversations, it might look like I'm quick on my feet and can turn a conversation easily towards spiritual things. This is only partially true. I'm not particularly quick on my feet, but I can turn many conversations easily to spiritual topics, because I'm very well practiced. I'm familiar with many different ways of starting spiritual conversations and I've role played them. I've practiced till they become second nature, so I might be ready for any opportunity.

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,<sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1Peter3:15-16)*

**You're a builder and the house you are helping to build is God's kingdom.** On your tool belt, are tools for starting and continuing spiritual conversations. When you start out, you might only have a couple of simple tools like a hammer and some nails. However, as you practice with them and role play with them, you'll get good at using them.

## **Perspective #10:** Getting Stuck and Squeezed!

### **Getting Stuck**

When you first start practicing stranger evangelism, you will probably get stuck early in the conversation. For example:

You: Have you ever had much to do with Christian things?

Them: No

You (internally): HELP! I was hoping you'd say yes, and that it had been a negative experience. Then I could have been the one to give you a positive experience of Christianity. Now I don't know what to say!!!

If this sort of thing happens to you and the conversation appears to reach a dead-end, that is absolutely fine. Thank God for it because you stepped up to the crease and took a swing. When you get stuck, God has used you as much you could be used. God squeezed out of you every last drop of evangelistic ability you had up to that point – FANTASTIC!

Ask God to teach you more and add to your tool belt. You can ask God and other Christians, "What could I have said to take the conversation further?" so you won't get stuck at that same point again. Celebrate getting stuck because at that moment God used you to the fullest extent you could be used!

**Adding to your tool-belt takes practice.**

How can you add to your tool-belt? By role-playing conversations with Christian friends, before you use them in conversations with non-believers. This way, you familiarise yourself with your conversational tools and they will sit comfortably with you. Other tool-adders are attending training seminars, journaling conversations you've had before where you've gotten stuck and pre-empting conversations where you might, and pre-empting someone's answers to questions. In a journaled conversation, you've got time to think how you could move it a little further.

In that previous example where you asked the IGNITION question (ie. what about you, what's been your experience of Christian things?) and the reply was "No, haven't had any," you got stuck. Now, you can think about it, ask Christian friends what they would say and write their suggestions down. Then you can pre-empt their response to this and role play a bit further so you don't get stuck there next time. Hey presto – here's another tool...***have you ever had any friends who were Christians?***

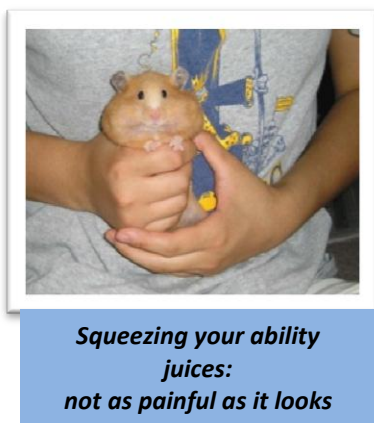
You: Have you ever had much to do with Christian things?

Them: No

You: Have you ever had any Christian friends? (you correctly pre-empt their no)

Them: no

You (not stumped, because you've role-played this very scenario): you might not have guessed, but you're talking to a Christian now. Would you like to take the chance to ask any questions about God that have come up throughout your life?



*Pre-empt their answer again: No.*

Another tool: Well if a question does come up about God, the meaning of life or Christianity, let me urge you to find a Christian or jump on the internet and ask that question. See where the road takes you.

I hope you can see how practicing using tools before you are in a live situation, will help you be more adept and minimise your chance of getting stuck where you did before. Now you have even more ability juice for God to squeeze out of you. And he will. Nothing he likes more than the juice of usefulness. It doesn't mean you won't get stuck again, but keep adding to your tool-belt. You will fill up with fresh ability juices which God can then keep squeezing out of you!

Remember – the results belong to God, so thank Him when you get stuck or squeezed! Give Jesus the glory and praise – ask Him to use the conversation in their lives for His purposes!

## **Perspective #11: What's it worth to you? The stone in the shoe...the seed of healthy doubt**

What if they ask a tricky question you don't know the answer to? Before you answer, get them to **place a value** on any answer you may give. This can put a stone in their spiritual shoe that they will eventually have to look at. This sows a seed of healthy doubt. It is an excellent outcome for them to doubt – it leads to openness! You can ask them, "If I were to answer this question to your satisfaction, **what difference might it make in your life?**" This will gently challenge their motive for asking the question and hopefully result in a genuine conversation. If they answer "No, it wouldn't make a difference," then reply, "That's OK, one day it might, so I encourage you to ask it again then. For now, we can chat about something else."

It's the principle of not casting your precious pearls before unappreciative swine. Don't give them answers to questions they don't actually care about. Not answering can mess with their heads in a good way. Your strategic withholding of info can trigger further questions in their head about God and how important it is to consider him. Sooner than you think, they may be coming back to you for the answer they once refused. God can use your holding back in their life.

We once hired a gardener to help us prune our shrubbery. I had been building some rapport with him. On the long trip to the dump with our trimmings, I had planned to discover where he was up to with God and help him take the next step...

Me: what do you like to do on the weekends?

Gardener: just relaxing, watching a bit of sport, because I do so much physical stuff in my work

Me: Saturday we do family stuff and go to the movies, Sunday morning, we go to church and chat with friends afterwards and have a good time. What about you? What's been your experience of Christian stuff?

Gardener: Not much. Never went to church or anything.

Me: did you know any Christians?

Gardener: yeah. There was this girl at school I wanted to ask out. She was apparently a Christian and her Dad said no to her going out with me because I wasn't.

Me: was your connection to her a positive or negative experience of Christianity for you?

Gardener: with her it was positive, but not with her father!

Me: so where does that leave you with God nowadays?

Gardener: No different really. Haven't had anything more to do with Christianity.

Me: do you have any issue with or question about God?

Gardener (quiet thought for a moment, then): If God is good, why does he allow bad stuff to happen that's no one's fault – like a toddler who's loved by his parents who gets a brain tumour and dies. Why would that happen?

Me: if I could answer that question to your satisfaction, would it be worthwhile? How would it change your life?

Gardener (quiet thought for a moment, then): Nah, it wouldn't change anything for me.

Me: Ok then, I won't tell you.

Gardener (jaw dropping, eyes popping): What? You're not going to answer?

Me: No, if it's not going to make a difference in your life, I won't tell you.

Gardener (still gazing at Cam in shock): I can't believe it; you're really not going to tell me are you?

Me: No, I don't want to waste your time mate, or mine for that matter

*The Gardener shook his head in astonishment and we drove on in silence for a while. I decided to keep quiet and let him wrestle with his thoughts. We arrived home and started cleanup - he continued to shake his head.*

Gardener: I can't believe it; you're really not going to tell me, are you?

Me: Well, you don't want me to preach at you, do you? I'd only be Bible bashing you if the info isn't really worth anything to you. I'm pretty sure you don't want to be bashed and I know I don't want to do the bashing! But look, if that changes, or you think you are ready to handle where the answer might lead, you've got my phone number, contact me. In a week or in a year, or 5 years, doesn't matter. If the answer would make a difference, I'll more than happily discuss it with you.

Gardener (still gobsmacked and almost begging for a Bible bashing): oh. Well. Ok.



This conversation was really valuable because it put a stone in his spiritual shoe that will hopefully bother him enough over time that he addresses it. It showed him that there is an answer to his question, but he needs to value it to get it.

### If they DO value the question

What if they say, "Actually, the answer to that question would make an important difference to me"?

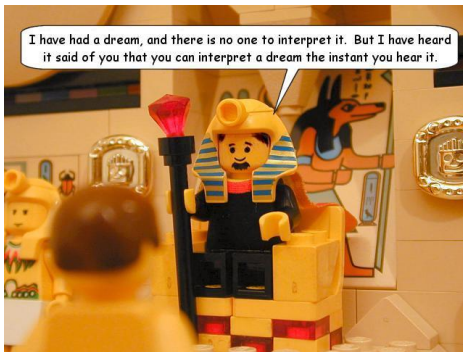
You can reply with something like, "**Well it is a good question. I don't know the answer off the top of my head, but I can look into it. I'll write it down and research it and then how about we look at it over coffee next Monday?**" If you can't see them again, you can make arrangements to send them the answer by text or email.

This leaves them with these very positive ideas:

- You were happy to be asked questions.
- You don't need to know everything (or be a know-it-all) to be a Christian. You're honest about your ignorance.
- There is an answer out there for the question they asked. Their question matters.



## Perspective #12: Don't Assume! Ask if they are interested in knowing God personally



Never assume what someone knows or thinks, or where their heart is. The Holy Spirit is at work and he is able to draw them towards Jesus, even in the course of your conversation.

A great question to ask here is: **I'm interested to know, have you ever come across the concept that you can know God personally – that is, have a friendship with God?**

I had a conversation with a chap I was sitting next to on a plane. He had gone to church right up to when he was 16, (he had even been an Altar Boy for years) and he had never heard the concept that you could know

God personally.

Discover what they think and be ready to share with them if that is something they would like to explore. Always have a Knowing God Personally (KGP) Booklet (or other Gospel Tract) with you to go through with them, then leave with them. Alternatively, if you have an iPhone, you can download the free KGP app (via iTunes App Store) and go through it with them. If they have an iPhone, they can download the KGP App, if not, give them a KGP Booklet.

## Perspective #13:

### Motivations – Why should I initiate with others in sharing my faith?



#### Become a great commandment, Great commission person

The greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Matt. 24:34-38). Jesus commands us to make disciples and behold Him with us (Matt. 28:16-20). Jesus says that anyone who **loves** Him will **obey** His teaching (John 14:23-24). One of the ways we love Jesus is by sharing our faith. The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matt. 24:39-40). The most loving thing that we can do is introduce people to Jesus, just as we know Jesus.

#### **Why do we share our faith?**

Why do we share our faith? 2 Corinthians 5 gives us some clear and compelling answers. We share our faith because we care about God's opinions not man's (2 Cor. 5:11), even if it means we sound crazy (2 Cor. 5:13). "Since, then, we know what it is to fear the LORD, we try and persuade men" (2 Cor. 5:11). We share about our faith because we love Jesus and his love compels us (2 Cor. 5:14), thus we speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). We share our faith whenever we see people the way that God sees people (2 Cor. 5:16, see Matt. 9:36). We also share our faith because it is God himself who has given us this ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19) and appointed us as his ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20-21).

We talk about Jesus because we cannot help it. When something matters to you, you can't stop talking about it. Jesus said that "the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:45b-46) If your sports team wins the final you talk about it; when you first begin a relationship, you can't stop talking about them. Even when Peter and John were told to stop sharing about Jesus to others about Jesus, they answered, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we *cannot help speaking* about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20).

We make disciples because of the authority of Jesus, not because of anything to do with us (Matthew 28:18-19). We make disciples because we have the authority of Jesus We are commanded by Jesus to preach the gospel to all creation (Mark 20:15). And "if God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). We needn't

fear nor be discouraged, because God himself goes with us, he won't leave us or forsake us (Deut. 31:8) – Jesus is with us eternally (Matt. 28:20) and sent the Holy Spirit to empower us (Acts 1:8).

We make disciples because of their need. God loves the people of your city. God is deeply concerned for the people of your city, and the confusion they have regarding him (see Jonah 4:10-11) and their lostness (Matt. 9:35-10:1). Why after all did Jesus come? "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the **lost**" (Luke 19:10)

### **Get beautiful feet**

Professing the truth about Jesus is inseparable from belief in Jesus (Romans 10:10), for our words acquit and condemn (Matt. 12:37). People cannot believe about Jesus if no-one tells them. As God's word makes clear, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)

### **An eternal perspective**

God has set up a kingdom, a kingdom that will destroy all other kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself last forever (Dan. 2:44, see vv. 26-47). A kingdom has a king, a territory and people. We consequently acknowledge the sovereignty of our king, desire to increase the areas in which he rules over and increase the number of people that acknowledge his lordship. God is worthy of the glory and people need to know him. Every other aspect of the Christian life (worship, fellowship, service etc.) is possible to do in heaven. Evangelism is not. The totality of what happens in this life is insubstantial compared to eternal life (see the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man, Luke 16:19-31) and once made, the decision is final (Heb. 9:27)

God is delaying the return of Jesus, patiently holding back judgment and eternity because "he is patient with **you**, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9; see 1 Cor. 15:24-25). A day will come when all tribes, nations, peoples and languages will acknowledge Jesus. (Rev. 5:9; 7:9). How blessed are you to get to be a part of that?

### **Place yourself where the Vision, Motivation and Skills will flourish!**

Share your adventures, role-play with each other, help each other get un-stuck! Join with others to meet and encourage each other (Heb 10:25).

**More Resources** This article is constantly being updated. For latest versions, see <http://catalytic.studentlife.org.au>



***Tactics - a Game Plan for Discussing your Christian Convictions*** by Gregory Koukl is a fantastic book I use to hone my evangelism and conversation skills. I thoroughly recommend you purchasing it. It is a most excellent investment in the future of your faith sharing! It is around \$20 from Koorong Bookstore.

In a world increasingly indifferent to Christian truth, followers of Christ need to be equipped to communicate with those who do not speak their language or accept their source of authority. Gregory Koukl demonstrates how to get in the driver's seat, keeping any conversation moving with thoughtful, artful diplomacy. You'll learn how to maneuver comfortably and graciously through the minefields, stop challengers in their tracks, turn the tables and - most importantly - get people thinking about Jesus.

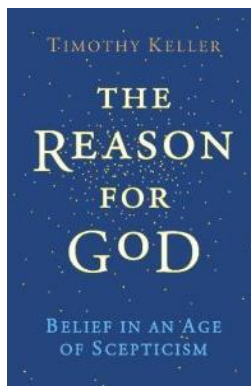
Soon, your conversations will look more like diplomacy than D-Day. Drawing on extensive experience defending Christianity in the public square, Koukl shows you how to: initiate conversations effortlessly; present the truth clearly, cleverly, and persuasively; graciously and effectively expose faulty thinking; skillfully manage the details of dialogue; and, maintain an engaging, disarming style even under attack. "Tactics" provides the game plan for communicating the compelling truth about Christianity with confidence and grace.

Koukl's apologetics organisation, *Stand to Reason*, is very helpful to would-be evangelists: [www.str.org](http://www.str.org)

For thought provokers and spiritual conversations starters through short films you can download to your mobile phone: ***The Global Short Film Network*** – <http://globalshortfilmnetwork.com/>

For iPhones (possible for others in the future), there is the ***Knowing God Personally App*** – free from the iTunes App Store.

***KGP*** (Knowing God Personally) are available from the CCCA HQ in Melbourne (around 50cent each). Ph: (03) 9014 7584



***The Reason for God - belief in an age of scepticism*** by Timothy Keller

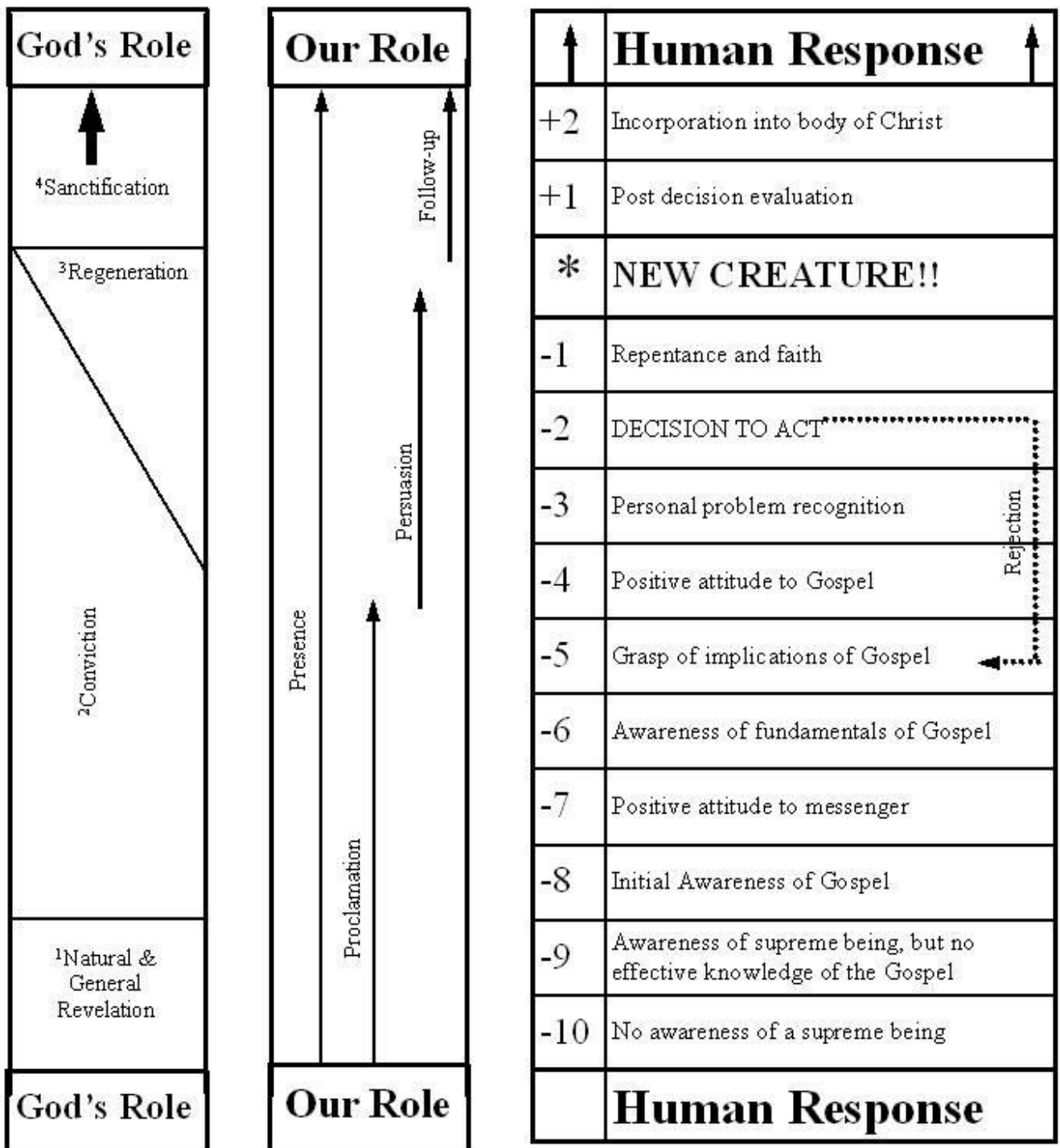
At a time when scientists and critics such as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens are questioning the validity of religion, this book uses literature, philosophy and reason to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly rational belief.

Timothy Keller, pastor of an inner-city New York church, looks at some of the most widespread accusations levelled at Christianity, including Christianity's claim of exclusivity; how a good God could allow suffering; why the Church is responsible for injustice; and if science has disproved religious belief.

This book has been written for believers and non-believers, sceptics and churchgoers, and charts a brilliantly considered and impassioned path to Christianity - a *Mere Christianity* for the twenty-first century.

# —The Engels Scale—

God's Role, Our Role and Human Response in Evangelism



God's Role	SCRIPTURE	WHAT SCRIPTURE IS ABOUT
	<sup>1</sup> Romans 1:20	
	<sup>2</sup> Romans 2:14,15 & John 16:8	
	<sup>3</sup> John 6:44 & Titus 3:5	
	<sup>4</sup> Philippians 1:6	