

Evangelism

What is Evangelism?

Discipleship focuses on **believers**.

Evangelism focuses on **non-believers**.

A disciple is a student who believes in a certain teacher or faith. In Christianity, a disciple is someone who believes in Jesus and is learning to follow him.

- Discipleship primarily takes place **in our small groups**.
- In small group: more mature Christians walk alongside less mature Christians to help them know God.
- Discipleship is essential to any Christian church or ministry.

Evangelism is sharing the gospel with **non-believers** & primarily takes place **outside small group or church**.

Evangelism is important because God does not only want relationship with those who were born into Christian homes. He desires relationship with **everyone**.

1. 1 Timothy 2:4 (emphasis added)

***2** I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** **who wants all people to be saved** and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

2. Ezekiel 33:11

***11** Say to them, As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?*

Why is Evangelism necessary?

Inviting non-Christians to Church without prior relationship rarely works.

The Church was always designed to primarily bring people to Christ outside its walls.

Small Group Leader Test:

- Most of our leaders grew up either Christian or with a church background.
- We must change our methods to see more students from non-Christian backgrounds develop into leaders.

How do we start doing Evangelism?

Evangelism must start with **love & compassion**.

God created us for **relationship** with Him. Because God is our **King, Father, & Friend**, this relationship should encompass all our lives.

God desires to change our desires.

Many Christian groups end up falling into one of two partial gospels:



Figure 1: Commandment vs Commission

In Chi Alpha we are both **a family & an army!**

God's greatest desire is to have **relationship with every single person** and humanity's greatest need is **relationship with God**.

The greatest way to love God & love people is **to introduce them to each other**.

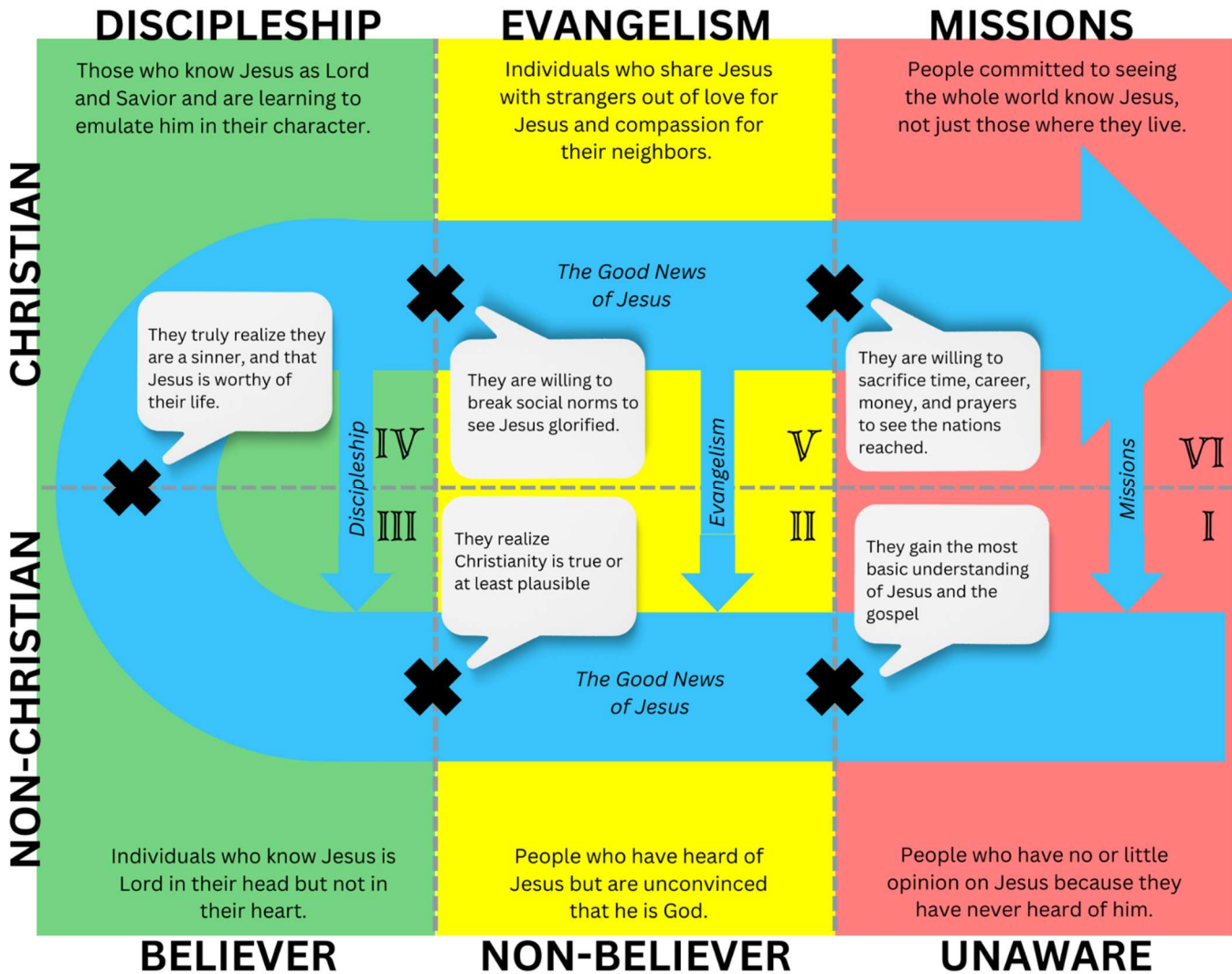


Figure 2: Advance of the Gospel Chart

Notes:

- Everyone is born into either an unaware, non-believer, or believer household or culture.
- In Chi Alpha we are great at helping students **turn the corner**.
- We do not want to only reach believers. We want to reach non-believers & people who are unaware of the Gospel as well.
- We must be willing to overcome social norms if we want to unlock access to the majority of WVU's campus which fall into the non-believer category.

Evangelism requires **breaking social norms**.

Do you believe Jesus is worthy of feeling awkward? Do you love others enough to be willing to interrupt them?

It is **awkward** to talk about religion.

We must be willing to pay the **awkward bill**.

- When non-Christians come to church, they may feel uncomfortable and outnumbered.
- When we go to them, we feel uncomfortable and outnumbered.
- **Love prefers to be uncomfortable.**

The most important conversations in life are **awkward** conversations.

There are three groups of people we are responsible for!

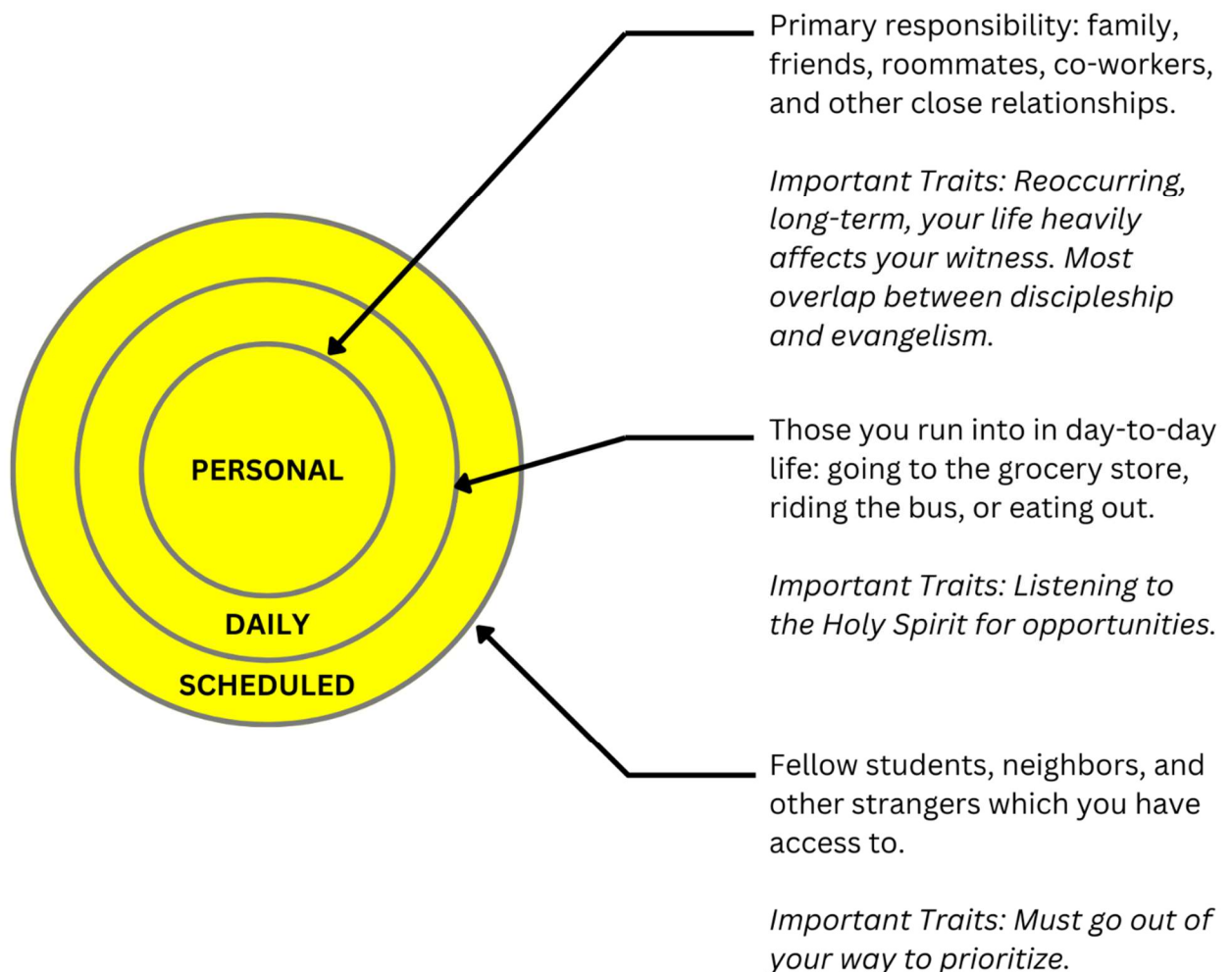


Figure 3: Spheres of Evangelism

10 Tips for Successful Evangelism:

1. Pray:

A. Go in God's power.

John 6:44:

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them..."

Preaching the gospel alone will not save anyone. Everyone needs to **encounter God** to be saved.

B. Ask for opportunities.

Jesus is far better at making opportunities to talk about him than we are.

If we ask for opportunities, God will give them. Take the opportunities you ask for.

2. Take Initiative:

A. Preach the Gospel

Romans 10:14-15

¹⁴How, 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? ¹⁵And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

We cannot wait on the world to get interested in Jesus. We must proclaim Jesus for them to get interested. Do not believe your Holy Living will be enough to make them ask about Jesus.

B. Plan

A failure to schedule to evangelize leads to failure to evangelize.

- It is rare to accidentally share with a stranger.
- Evangelism is a discipline to be learned and scheduled into our lives.

3. Get Rejected:

Matthew 5:11-12

¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are unlikely to be in real danger in the US while sharing Jesus, but you will be embarrassed.

How will you use your freedom?

- When you do get made fun of, it is reason to **celebrate!** It is an honor to be a fool for Christ.
- Accepting rejection graciously may still help that person become open to the gospel one day.

We need to be faithful to go share, but ultimately the results are between them and God.

4. Remember the Goal:

Your goal is to **share the gospel**. Not to get them into Chi Alpha or your small group. Our first instinct should be to invite them to lunch or coffee for a follow-up conversation.

1 Corinthians 3:6-8

⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.

A good rule of thumb is if they are:

1. **Christian**, invite them into community.
2. **Open**, invite them into friendship and follow up.
3. **Hostile**, be firm but kind.
4. **Closed**, be honest but gracious.

5. Admit when you don't know:

When you share the gospel, you will run into people who **know more than you**. ***This will happen fairly often when you first start trying to share your faith. That's okay!***

Admit your ignorance and be willing **to investigate a solution**.

John 9:25

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

If all you know about Jesus is what he did for you, that is something substantial.

As our culture becomes more secular, people will care less about why Jesus is **true**...
...and more concerned with if he is **helpful**.

6. Know what you believe: "Apologetics"

The Bible commands we are able to articulate what we believe.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ ... 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,

If you are a Christian, you should be able to articulate some of your core beliefs, such as:

- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- Where do you get the doctrine of the Trinity from?

As you grow in your faith you should also become familiar with related topics, such as:

- Why can we trust the New Testament Documents?
- How can a good God allow evil?
- Can science and faith co-exist?

7. Get to the Heart of the matter.

Real objections to belief in Jesus exist. It is important to find answers to these objections to open the door to believe in Jesus; however, this will **never guarantee** that they will believe in Jesus.

Romans 1:18-20

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Everyone is born with a **God sized hole in their heart**, investigate what is currently trying to fill it?

8. Ask good questions:

One of the best ways to evangelize is by asking good questions.

- People can always deny what you say, but they will have hard time denying what they say.

You do not always have to provide answers, often you just need to ask them to explain their own beliefs.

Asking good questions is how you find what is important to them and help them to see the gaps in what they believe.

9. Be Yourself!

Different styles of evangelism will come more naturally to some than to others.

You do not need to pretend to be someone you are not. Just be genuine.

While we should all be willing to evangelize in multiple ways, focus on whatever you are best at.

10. Practice! Practice! Practice!

No one is good at Evangelism the first time.

The way to get better at evangelism is **to do evangelism.**

Is this for me?

The Woman at the Well

- She met Jesus at the well.
- He proved that he knew her whole life story and claimed to be the Jewish Savior.
- In her excitement she went and told everyone in her village about him.

John 4:39-42

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

- She saw success without office, training, or knowledge.

Yes! Evangelism is for you! No, matter how new you are to faith in Jesus, you have something to share with others.

Activity: (30 minutes)

Practice sharing your faith!

Don't panic, we are just pretending.

Step 1: Form a group.

- Form a group of 2-4 students near you. (A group with both guys and girls is recommended, though not required). ***If you are not a Christian, thank you for coming! Feel free to join a group with at least one Christian and just observe them practicing, we don't expect you to try sharing Jesus if you do not believe in him.***
- Once you have a group formed head to the outside of the sanctuary, whether up front, in the foyer, or in the coffee area.

Step 2: Find a station.

- The XA staff will be at various stations throughout the room, and we will be roleplaying non-believers for you to practice sharing the gospel with. We will simulate non-Christians from multiple backgrounds, some of us will be open to the gospel and some of us will be more hostile to the gospel.
- If your group is first at a station step right up to the volunteer or sit down with them. If not the first, just listen, learn, and wait your turn!

Step 3: Initiate the Conversation.

- Attempt to start a Jesus centered conversation! Possible starting points.
 - "Can I pray for you?"
 - "What do you believe about Jesus?"
 - "Where do you get your sense of purpose?"
 - Get creative!

Step 4: Receive Feedback.

- After about 10 minutes if the conversation has not naturally ended, wrap it up and let the staff member know your group would love to hear some feedback.
- The staff volunteer will then just share with you for 30 sec to a minute about what you did well and where you could have directed the conversation better.

Step 5: Try another station!

- Go get in line at another station! We would love for each of you to be able to participate in or observe an interaction with multiple different stations if possible.

Step 6: Debrief.

- I will come back up here around 8:50 and let you know how to wrap things up and head back to your seat.
- We will go over the next steps for putting this in action on campus.

What Now? (10 minutes)

1. Prayer Walks

- *Great for developing a burden for the lostness of WVU!*
- *Provides an important role of asking the Lord to go before us and prepare hearts & provide us miraculous power!*

Dates:

1. Friday, Oct. 13th | 2:00pm-3:00pm | Downtown
2. Friday, Nov. 10th | 2:00pm-3:00pm | Evansdale

2. Booth/Chi Alpha Evangelism

- *Great for 1st time evangelists!*
- *Share the gospel where you can receive instant feedback and can ask for help if you get stuck in a conversation.*
- *We want to support you and coach you!*

Dates:

1. Wednesday, Oct. 4th | 9:00am-1:30pm | Engineering PRT Station
2. Wednesday, Oct. 11th | 9:00am-11:30pm | Inside Mountainlair
3. Thursday, Oct. 12th | 6:30pm-7:15pm | Inside Mountainlair
4. Wednesday, Oct. 18th | 9:00am-1:30pm | Engineering PRT Station
5. Wednesday, Oct. 25th | 9:00am-1:30pm | Downtown Brick Area
6. Thursday, Oct. 26th | 6:30pm-7:15pm | Inside Mountainlair
7. Wednesday, Nov. 1st | 9:00am-1:30pm | 5th floor of Evansdale Crossing
8. Thursday, Nov. 2nd | 6:30pm-7:15pm | Inside Mountainlair
9. Wednesday, Nov. 8th | 9:00am-1:30pm | Downtown Brick Area
10. Thursday, Nov. 9th | 6:30pm-7:30pm | Inside Mountainlair
11. Wednesday, Nov. 15th | 9:00am-1:30pm | 5th floor of Evansdale Crossing
12. Thursday, Nov. 16th | 6:30pm-7:30pm | Inside Mountainlair
13. Wednesday, Nov. 29th | 9:00am-1:30pm | Inside Mountainlair
14. Thursday, Nov. 30th | 6:30pm-7:30pm | Inside Mountainlair

3. Go together!

- *Allows us to reach students many more than “Chi Alpha” ever could!*
- *2x2 just like the 72 disciples Jesus sent out (Luke 10:1-2)*

All XA Discord!

Link: <https://discord.gg/EYp6d9Yv>

Challenge: If you are a Christian, commit to doing evangelism for 1-2 hours every month for the rest of the school year!

Whether or not we choose to take up this call to normalize sharing our faith will send ripples down the wakes of history for this University and this State. If we struggle to build an evangelism culture today, that will be all those who come to Christ through WVU XA will know for years to come. I am excited to see the day where the Christian who shares their faith is the norm, and the one who doesn't is the exception.

Resources

Please note these categories are meant to be helpful but many Christian scholars, authors, pastors, and apologists cover a variety of topics and may not only cover the topics with which they are listed below. In addition, many of these authors have written many great books so we just listed our most recommended from their great selections. Chi Alpha does not necessarily agree with all the views of any of these individuals but hearing multiple perspectives helps us learn to think critically. I know these are a lot of resources but just start anywhere!

Foundational & Understandable Bible Teaching

- Francis Chan (Book/Podcast: *Crazy Love*)
- Dr. Tim Keller (Book: *Reason for God*)
- Ray Comfort (YouTube: *Living Waters*)
- Kieth & Melody Green (*lastdayministries.org*)
- Mike Winger (Podcast: *BibleThinker*, YouTube: *Mike Winger*)
- Tim Mackie & Jon Collins (Website/YouTube: *The Bible Project*)

General Apologetics & Atheism

- Dr. William L. Craig (YouTube: *ReasonableFaithOrg*)
- Dr. John Lennox
- C.S. Lewis (Books: *The Problem of Pain*, *Mere Christianity*)
- Brandon McGuire (YouTube: *Daily Dose of Wisdom*)
- Dr. Norman L. Geisler & Dr. Frank Turek (Book: *I don't have enough Faith to be an Atheist*)
- Jeff Durbin (YouTube: *Apologia Studios*)
- Mike Jones (YouTube: *Inspiring Philosophy*)

New Testament & the Resurrection

- Josh & Dr. Sean McDowell (Book: *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*)
- Dr. Gary Habermas & Dr. Mike Licona (Book: *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*)
- Dr. Tim & Dr. Lydia McGrew (YouTube: *Lydia McGrew*)
- Erik Manning (YouTube: *Testify*)
- (YouTube: *Faith Because of Reason*)

Miracles

- Dr. Craig Keener (Book: *Miracles Today*)
- Lee Strobel (Book: *The Case for Miracles*)

The Old Testament & Judaism

- Dr. Sandra L. Richter (Book: *The Epic of Eden*)
- Rabbi Eduardo (YouTube: *Radar Apologetics*)
- Dr. Michael Brown (YouTube: *Line of Fire*)

Christianity in Culture

- Ruslan (YouTube: *Ruslan KD*)
- Jon McCray (YouTube: *Whaddo You Meme?*)

Progressive Christianity

- Dr. Preston Sprinkle (Book: *Embodied*)
- Alecia Childers (YouTube: *Alisa Childers*)

Islam

- Dr. Nabeel Qureshi (Book: *Seeking Allah Finding Jesus*)
- Dr. David Wood (YouTube: *Acts17Polemics*)
- The Christian Prince (YouTube: *ChristianPrince*)
- Sam Shamoun & Anthony Rogers (*Answering-Islam.org*)
- Al Fadi (YouTube: *CIRA International*)
- Mohammad Faridi (YouTube: *Mohammad Faridi*)

LDS, Jehovah's Witness, & other Christian Cults

- Jeremy Runnels (Book: *The CES Letter*)
- Walter Martin (Book: *The Kingdom of Cults*)
- Apologia Studios (Podcast/YouTube: *Cultish*)