

**Introduction:**

**Jesus and the message of the cross is the only \_\_\_\_\_ for our world.**

**Expect spiritual opposition**

There is nothing the enemy hates more than when you are sharing the Gospel.

Lies from the enemy:

- Who do you think you are?
- You're a fraud.
- You're a hypocrite.
- You're inadequate.
- They are not going to listen, why bother?

**Principles for sharing the Gospel:**

**Rely on the \_\_\_\_\_, not scripts or tracts**

- Don't "vomit" Gospel scripts.
- The Goal is not for you to share the Gospel. The goal is for them to hear and understand it.
- Wait for the right opportunity. Be patient. Listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

**People need to experience the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God**

- The Gospel is not a transfer of information, it is a supernatural revelation of God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for boldness, courage, authority, and power.

**Introducing people to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_**

- We're not defending a concept of philosophy, or behavioral lifestyle.
- Who is Jesus? What do people think of when they think of Jesus? Is it accurate?
- Reframe Jesus. (Maybe through a Bible study for the non-religious)

**No \_\_\_\_\_, No \_\_\_\_\_**

- The message of the cross, the death and resurrection of Jesus, 1 Corinthians 1:18 is both foolishness and the power of God.
- This tension forces us to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- It reminds us that it is not about our wisdom or eloquence. 1 Corinthians 2:4

**Contextualizing the Gospel for your audience:**

- Contextualization is about communicating in a language they can understand.
- It's not about popularity or compromise, it's about clarity.
- Avoid using Christian language that is foreign and strange to secular culture.
- Jesus used words and imagery that was very relevant to the audience He spoke to.

**Don't use the Bible as an argumentative authority:**

- "The Bible says," is not a compelling or effective approach for post-Christian people.
- Leverage the truth, that is experientially verifiable, taught in the Bible, not the authority of the Bible itself.

**Paul's Example:**

- |                                                                                |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                                                                | Acts 17:22-34 |
| • He compliments the Athens on their interest in the gods.                     | Acts 17:22b   |
| • He referenced an altar dedicated to an "UNKNOWN GOD."                        | Acts 17:23    |
| • He quotes one of their poets.                                                | Acts 17:28b   |
| • He summarizes the biblical account of creation, without referencing Genesis. | Acts 17:24-26 |
| • He calls his audience to repentance.                                         | Acts 17:30    |
| • He preaches the death and resurrection of Jesus                              | Acts 17:31    |
| • Response: Some rejected, some wanted to know more, and some believed.        | Acts 17:32-34 |

**Communicating the Gospel effectively in the context that God has called you to:**

There is \_\_\_\_\_ in your story

- Practice sharing your story and the message of the cross.
  - Short and succinct (3-5 minutes)
  - Non-religious language
  - Including Jesus and the cross

Take a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ a response. Give people an opportunity to say \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus

**Discipleship relationships:**

- Doesn't start the day someone commits to a local church, but the moment they meet a follower of Christ.
- It's about doing life together, not a weekly event.
- Doesn't have to happen in a classroom or a church hall, it can happen in the context and environment people come from.
- It's intentional: we guide the relationship purposefully to see spiritual growth, making the most of every opportunity.
- Should lead to multiplication.

**Application:**

1. What lies have you believed when it comes to sharing the Gospel with others?
2. Aaron challenges us to practice sharing your story and the message of the cross. Take some time to write it down and share it with a friend this week.