

GGC Evangelism Strategy: Part 1

Understanding Your Communities: Who has God placed into your life to reach with the Gospel?

Intro: Sometimes Christians can feel overwhelmed and under equipped when thinking about taking the gospel to those around them. Over the next few sessions, we want to equip the believers of GGC with a basic plan to assist them as they do their part in reaching the lost around them.

Who has God placed into your life to reach with the gospel?

Understanding your communities -

- Every one of us has two different communities of people.
 - i. Those we don't know – Our Geographical Community
 - ii. Those we know – Our Relational Community
- During the past 50 years, there have been emotional pleas to reach one of these communities at the expense of the other.
- Surveys reveal that approximately 80% of people who are Christians were lead to Christ through a relationship.
- Generally, sharing your faith with someone you don't know may be easier, but witnessing to those in your relational community usually makes the most impact.
- The Scriptures reveal that Christ, the apostles, and the early church, targeted both groups.
- God has put you in a specific place (job, home, school, family and church) for a specific reason.

1) Your Geographical Community -

- a. The geographical community would be defined as those people you don't know personally who live, play or work around you.
- b. The people live within a reasonable driving distance to your church or a walking distance from your home.
 - i. Your Church's Geographical Community – 5-25 minute commute
 - ii. Your Personal Geographical Community – Neighborhood, work and school

c. Examples in Scripture of reaching people in the geographical community (no personal relationship before the Gospel was presented)

- i. Jesus and the paralytic man – Mark 2:1-12
- ii. Jesus and Zacchaeus – Luke 19
- iii. Jesus and Nicodemus – John 3
- iv. Jesus and the woman at the well - John 4:4-26
- v. Jesus and the man born blind – John 9
- vi. Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch – Acts 8:26-40
- vii. Paul and Silas to the Philippian Jailer – Acts 16:16-34
- viii. Paul to the men on Mar’s Hill – Acts 17
- ix. Paul and Agrippa – Acts 26

d. Identify your specific geographical community (area, streets, groups or individuals)

- i. Church - _____
- ii. Home - _____
- iii. Work - _____
- iv. Social network - _____

e. What is your responsibility toward this community?

1. Be Involved – “Great Commission”
2. Model the Gospel – 1 Peter 3:1, Matt 5:13-16
3. Love/Serve – Matt 22:39
4. Pray for Open Doors – Col 4:3-6
5. Proclaim the Word – Mark 16:15
6. **Target** specific members of your **Geographical Community** and **bridge** them into your **Relational Community**. (Ambassador – 2 Cor. 5:20, Adapt – 1 Cor. 9:19-23)

2) Your Relational Community

- a. These are the people that you know personally.
- b. Most estimates are that the average person knows 75-250 people relatively well.
- c. These could involve neighbors, co-workers, friends, relatives and family members.
- d. People we share things with – jobs, hobbies, interests, money, vision, fun, experiences
- e. These people already know us, so when we present the Gospel to them, we should at least have a hearing.
- f. Examples in Scripture of reaching people in the relational community
 - i. Matthew with his former co-workers – In Mark 2:13-17
 - ii. The demonic man sent back to his home – Luke 8:38-39
 - iii. Andrew to Simon Peter – John 1:40-42
 - iv. Philip to Nathanael – John 1:43-51
 - v. The woman at the well reaches her townsfolk – John 4:28-42
 - vi. The Philippian jailer reached out to his family – Acts 16:27-34
- g. Identifying your relational community
 - i. Take a minute think about those you know personally who are not yet Christians. Which of these do you believe God wants you to specifically target with the Gospel? They could be friends, family, relatives, acquaintances, co-workers, or neighbors.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- h. What is your responsibility toward this community?
 1. Maintain a Redemptive Relationship
 2. Model the Gospel – 1 Peter 3:1, Matt 5:13-16
 3. Love/Serve – Matt 22:39
 4. Proclaim the Word – Mark 16:15

5. Pray that the Word would Work – 2 Thess. 3:1

GGC Evangelism Strategy Part 1 – ESV Verses

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Responsibility to our Geographical community

1 Peter 3:1 (ESV)

¹Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,

Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV)

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 22:39 (ESV)

³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Colossians 4:3–6 (ESV)

³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Mark 16:15 (ESV)

¹⁵And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (ESV)

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Responsibility to our Relational Community

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (ESV)

¹Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,