

**Questions for Rediscovering Evangelism taken from the study guides for the Rediscovering Evangelism video series of The American Anglican Council**

**Session 1: Commitment**

1. Each person introduce yourself to the group and share one example of something that is in the "category of commitment" for you, and one example of something that is in the "category of good idea" for you. Describe why for each. (Examples might be: Going to church on Sundays, exercise, creating a budget, tithing, or dieting)

Commitments	Good Ideas

2. Share your story of when and how you became a believer in Jesus (were born again/saved). If you prayed for salvation today while watching the video, share that with the group. If you haven't yet believed, please share with the group where you are on your spiritual journey.

3. What are your fears about doing personal evangelism, and why do you think you have those fears?

4. Read Luke 22:41-42.

**Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives** <sup>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

<sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.<sup>[9]</sup> <sup>45</sup> And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

\*\* To what other challenges and/or excuses will you have to say, "Yet your will be done" in order to overcome them and do personal evangelism?

5. Personal Renewal and Personal Responsibility bolster our commitment to doing Personal Evangelism. What is one thing you will do this week to deepen your love and passion for Jesus?

## **Session 2: Commission & Compassion**

1. Canon Mark referred to the Five Great Commissions. Have different people each look up and read them to the group: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8.

Discuss what Jesus has commanded us to do and why.

What insights to personal evangelism do you see in these commands?

2. How does knowing that God's word commands you to do evangelism motivate you to go and do it? Or if it does not motivate you to go, why not?

3. Telling people they are going to Hell is not usually the best approach to evangelism, however is the truth that people who do not believe in Jesus for salvation go to Hell a motivator for you to do evangelism? Why or why not?

4. Do you agree that all people are broken due to sin – some more visibly, some more invisibly? Why or why not?

If you have access to the internet, watch this video and discuss how it applies to evangelism: You will need to skip the advertisement! Even though this is pretty cheesy, it's good for helping us to see...

[https://youtu.be/D38S9o\\_6qnc](https://youtu.be/D38S9o_6qnc)

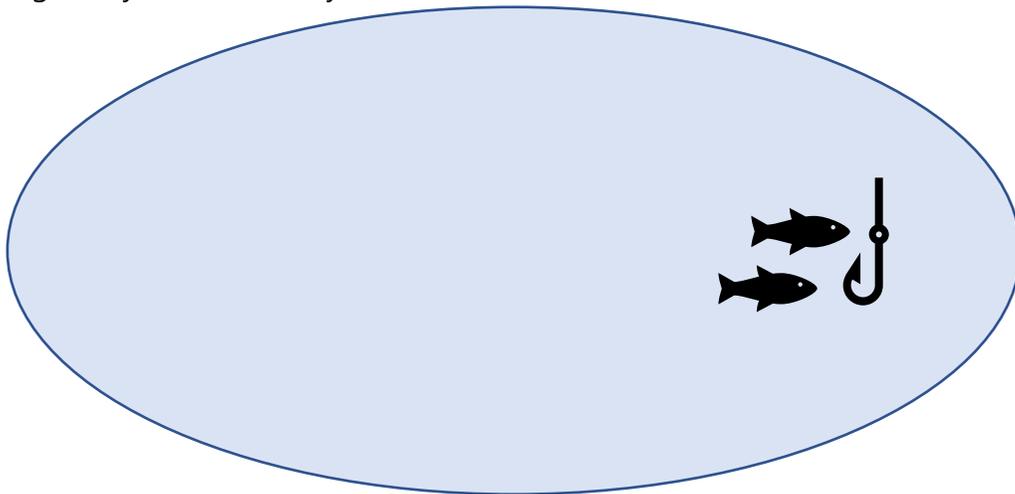
5. Share a time that you looked for satisfaction through possessions, positions, or pleasure, that ultimately left you unsatisfied. If you can, share how you've experienced satisfaction – peace, healing, joy, etc. – through Jesus instead.

6. Is the idea that people are broken and hurting in this life and that Jesus is what they are ultimately looking for (John 4 – The Living Water idea) a motivating factor to do evangelism for you? Why or why not?

### **Session 3: Cast**

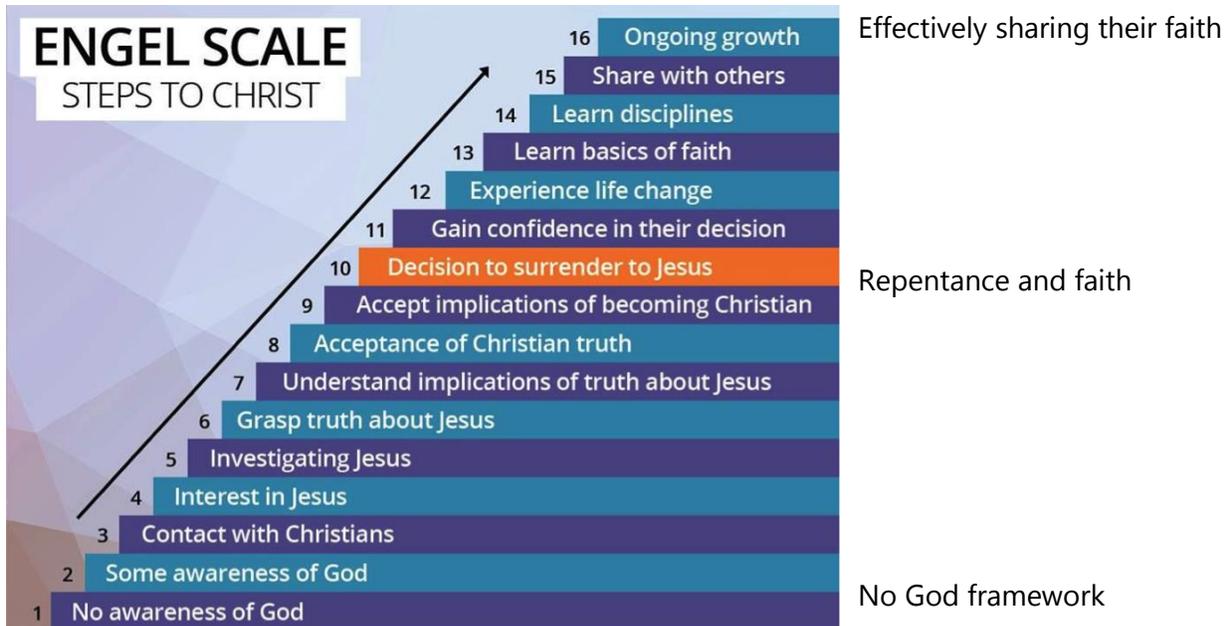
1. Have you ever been fishing? Did you catch anything? Describe your experience and what you learned about how fishing works. How do you see that relating to evangelism?

2. Jesus called you to be a "fisher of people" (Matthew 5:18-19). Below is a diagram of your "fishing pond." In the blanks, take a moment now to begin listing the names of the people you know who don't know Jesus. These are the people God has given you to "fish" for with evangelism. If you're comfortable, share with your group who you've listed and why. Take a few minutes individually to start writing down the people you know who are not yet believers. Consider your family, friends, co-workers, people you've met (like grocery clerks), hobby buddies, etc.



As we think about this pond, I want to include thinking about who is in the God's mile of this church. Let's start to think about the community and culture here in our neighborhood in Catonsville especially. What are the needs and issues here for our neighbors? There is no fool-proof way to bring someone to Christ. We are simply hoping to grow and mature as the disciples of Christ and reach toward the goal of sharing the gospel.

3. Canon Mark discussed the Engel Scale (see diagram below). Is the Engel Scale concept new to you and, if so, how does this change your idea of how evangelism works?



4. How does the idea that "successful" evangelism is not only praying with someone for conversion but also moving someone closer to that decision change your attitude toward evangelism? How will it change your approach to evangelism?

5. Share your own example of doing successful evangelism by moving someone closer to Jesus and you didn't even realize you had? Close your group time with prayer in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

## **Practicum: Identify the fish and how receptive they are to the gospel**

1. This week, continue to fill in your “pond” by listing names that the Lord brings to your mind.
2. Prayerfully think about each person on your list and where they are on the Engel Scale. How receptive do you think they are to the Gospel? Are they far from Christ or closer to Christ? This will help determine the strategy you’ll use to “fish” for each person.

Keep in mind that if people are not ready for the proclamation, it may harm their understanding of the gospel to push that in too soon.

### **Session 4: Continuum – Demonstration**

1. According to a recent Barna study (Reviving Evangelism), some non-Christians say they might be more interested in Christianity if they had more evidence (44%) and the faith had a better reputation (34%). Practicing Christians, however, tend to underestimate the importance of evidence (14%) and reputation (23%) to non-Christians’ interest.

Based on this, how do you think demonstrating your faith both as evidence of its truth and giving it a better reputation, would help your evangelism efforts?

2. What are some ways Christians in general, and you specifically, could demonstrate more evidence of God’s Kingdom to non-Christians?
3. Describe an experience you have had where God demonstrated himself to you in a supernatural way either before or after you became a Christian. If before, how did that help lead you to becoming a follower of Jesus? How helpful toward evangelism would it be for a non-Christian to have an experience of God?
4. Refer to your fishing pond list and for those who are “far from” God, identify ways you can start demonstrating His love to them – specifically, this week, this month.

Close your group time with prayer in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

## **Practicum:**

1. Prayerfully pick someone in your fishing pond who is not yet very receptive to the Gospel on the Engel Scale.
2. Prayerfully think of a way you can demonstrate the Gospel to them this week. Do it!

Since we have shortened the time for going through these videos, I want to encourage you to take more time over the next several weeks to work through the information and work on the questions and your own personal story about how God brought you to salvation.

## **Session 5: Continuum - Proclamation**

1. According to a recent Barna study (Reviving Evangelism), The top qualities non-Christians would look for in a person with whom to talk about faith are "listens without judgment" (62%) and "does not force a conclusion" (50%). However, only a minority would say the Christians they know personally possess these qualities (34% listens without judgment; 26% does not force a conclusion). Do you think this would be easy or hard for you to do when in an evangelistic conversation with someone? Why?

2. In the Post Communion prayer, in the Anglican Church in America's Prayer Book it says, "And now, Father, send us out to the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord." (ACNA BCP 2019, p. 137)

Sharing your testimony is a great way to be a "faithful witness."

The four parts to a good testimony are:

- i. What your life was like before Christ
- ii. How you became aware of your need for Christ
- iii. When and how you became a believer in Christ
- iv. How has your life changed for good as a Christian

Now, break into groups of two and take turns sharing your testimony with each other including all four parts.

3. In your same groups of two, role play explaining the Gospel message to one another and leading each other in a prayer to believe in Jesus for salvation. Pretend you are an unbeliever and listen and let the other person lead you in the prayer. Next, reverse roles.

(Note: if this is new for you, you won't be perfect at this and that's okay. That's why we're practicing! And in the prayer, remember to include the three ABC's: **Admit** they are a sinner, **Believe** in Jesus death and resurrection for the forgiveness of their sin, and **Commit** to follow Jesus as Lord of their life.)

4. Gather back into your larger group and share with each other how your practice went. Close your group time with prayer in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

**Practicum:**

1. Prayerfully pick someone in your fishing pond who you believe would be receptive to some form of proclamation of the Gospel – using words.

2. Prayerfully look for an opportunity this week to use words to bring them closer to Jesus. Whatever is most appropriate—invitation, sharing your testimony, explaining the Gospel to them—do it.

**Session 6: Continuum - Transformation**

1. In the REC Book of Common Prayer section entitled Prayers and Thanksgivings, we have a prayer **For Missions** and one **For Missionaries** that Pastor Benner often prays. It says, “Grant thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon thy missionary servants who are carrying the light of thy Gospel to the dark places of the earth...” (BCP 2005, p. 61) Any place where the gospel is not known or preached is a dark place.

If or when you’ve prayed that in the past, be honest, were you praying for someone else rather than yourself?

What do you think about seeing yourself as one who is “carrying the light of thy Gospel to the dark places of the earth?”

2. What are some ways you have personally discipled, or seen others disciple, a new believer in Jesus effectively?

3. Brainstorm some ideas about how you might walk with someone as they are transformed in Christ in the following areas (remember, in brainstorming there are not “dumb” ideas!):

- Being Loved by God...
- Belonging to God’s family...
- Becoming like Christ through knowing his Word...
- Be Serving in ministry...
- Be Sharing Christ with others...

4. To your knowledge, does your church have a clear process or system for new believers to become mature disciples, that you could help bring someone you personally bring to Christ through?

If so, describe it. If not, what could you do to help your church develop such a pathway/process?

**Wrap up Questions:**

1. Read Luke 15:1-7.

**The Parable of the Lost Sheep** **15** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

According to this passage, how important is even one sinner repenting and being saved to the Father?

2. Now, as you conclude this series, hopefully you feel better about personal evangelism than you did when you started. However, you likely still have some fear and anxiety about it. Knowing that even one person being saved brings that much joy to God, would you commit to reaching at least one?

Not saying you can't go for more, but don't think that even one isn't worth your effort. It is!

**Closing prayer** (together):

Lord, please help us to be strong and of good courage, to not be afraid of doing evangelism, knowing that you are with us wherever we go. God please help us bring you much joy by helping to lead even one more person to salvation through Jesus. In His Name we pray. Amen.